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COMPENDIUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The REC's Contribution to a Sounder Environment for Serbia and Montenegro (2001/4)

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COMPENDIUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS
The REC's Contribution to a Sounder Environment for Serbia and Montenegro (2001/4)

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SOLUTIONS

for People and the Environment

Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) has faced a number of events since 2001 that have led the country through turbulent changes of democratisation and transition, as well as the recovery from decade of conflicts. Within this environment, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe's (REC) country office in Serbia and Montenegro followed the strategic goals of the REC, taking into account the specific circumstances of SCG as pre-accession country to European Union. Throughout this period REC SCG strategic goal remains to provide high quality, innovative, demand-driven services to stakeholders, aiming at the highest benefit for the Serbia and Montenegro and global environment, and implementing sustainable development in practice. Since the beginning of activities in Serbia and Montenegro, the REC has provided a neutral platform for dialogue, networking and cooperation among stakeholders and partners, at and between national and local levels.

The REC implements programmes and projects in Serbia and Montenegro through a country office based in Belgrade, a field office in Podgorica (Montenegro), and project offices in Podgorica (Montenegro), Pirot, Becej, Kikinda and Backa Topola (Serbia). REC SCG operates in Serbia and Montenegro as an international organisation, following the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the REC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of FR Yugoslavia in June 2001. The REC has signed a bilateral agreement with the government of the Republic of Montenegro about the legal status of the REC in Montenegro in April 2004.

Fulfilling its mission, like in all other countries where the REC implements its programmes, REC SCG seeks to involve multiple stakeholders in Serbia and Montenegro - such as ministries, local authorities, NGOs, academia and business associations. With this approach, REC SCG has demonstrated its full commitment to partnership among environmental stakeholders, a common understanding of the goals at hand and mutual trust. However, it has also maintained the independence of the organisation through a successful model of governance, the international legal status of the organisation in Serbia and Montenegro, diversified funding and high-quality work.

Changes in the physical and social environment of beneficiaries - including political, social and other external factors - will influence the needs of the stakeholders and partners, and consequently influence the pattern of projects the REC SCG undertakes in Serbia and Montenegro. Therefore we will continue to development the organisation proactively to be able to deliver its mission in a rapidly changing context of political, social and economic reconstruction in Serbia and Montenegro.

This publication provides a short overview of the REC's mission, objectives and main achievements in Serbia and Montenegro since receiving official status in 2001. We hope that the summary of the projects implemented by the REC in Serbia and Montenegro will bring new ideas to the readers of this publication on new project opportunities which can be jointly implemented and bring us solutions for people and the environment.

Dr Radoje Lauševi, Director
REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro

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Messages of Support

On behalf of the United States Government and the US Embassy in Belgrade, I would like to commend the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) for the work it has done in Serbia and Montenegro over the past six years. The Center and its talented staff have made great progress in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. Additionally, it survived the turbulent end of the Milosevic regime to make notable contributions in other key areas, such as civil society development.

Cooperation between the United States Government and the REC began in November 2000 with support from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a project to enhance networking and cooperation among Southeast European NGOs. This successful, three-year program strengthened environmental groups' capacity, increased inter-group cooperation, and addressed concrete cross-border environmental problems.

The US Embassy in Belgrade and REC began building upon this success at the end of 2003 with a new program of training seminars for representatives from the government, NGOs, universities, and the business sector. These seminars covered such topics as "Environmental Compliance and Enforcement" and "Toxic and Hazardous Waste Management." After the June seminar, the EPA noted that the REC did an "excellent job" and highlighted the Center's "preparatory organisation" and "professional expertise."

The Government of the United States of America is very pleased with its ongoing working relationship with the REC. We are fortunate to have a partner in Serbia and Montenegro whose organisation, expertise, and energy have boosted the United States' considerable efforts to improve and protect the environment in Serbia and Montenegro and the region. We look forward to a long and productive future with the Center and congratulate the REC Country Office for its six years of dedicated service.

Michael Papp
Second Secretary
Embassy of the United States of America
in Belgrade

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Montenegro established excellent cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe in the previous period. This cooperation was mainly focused on implementation of regional projects aiming to build capacities of competent national authorities and to promote regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe.

Having in mind the recent establishment of REC Field Office in Montenegro, I sincerely hope that our cooperation in implementation of existing projects and initiation of the new ones will further affirm to the genuine satisfaction of both the REC and the government of Montenegro.

Mr. Boro Vučinić, Minister
Ministry of Environment and Spatial
Planning of the Republic of Montenegro

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Stability Pact's REReP program for reconstruction of environment in South Eastern Europe was a pioneering initiative to enhance cooperation in the region torn by conflict and war for almost a decade. The Secretariat of REReP, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and its network of Country Offices played a vital role in this process of bringing people together to work on the issues of common concern.

In parallel and complementary to these activities, the REC has been participating in implementation of the comprehensive program of development of core environmental legislation for Serbia and for Montenegro, harmonised with the EU acquis in the fields of EIA, SEA, IPPC and access to environmental legislation. This three-year program has been designed in the framework of bilateral co-operation between Finland and SAM and funded by the Finnish Government. During realisation of this project in 2002-2004, the REC has shown its reliability as a competent local partner in this program implementing international consortium.

Assisting in the efforts to formulate and develop sustainable solutions for environmental problems in the country, REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro has managed to build an impressive portfolio of achievements over the years. Their various activities in the areas of capacity and institution building support to the civic sector and local initiatives have left a significant mark on the reform process to democracy. The reputation they repeatedly affirm through professional performance and demanding quality assurance makes them one of the key players in this field in Serbia and Montenegro.

Ms. Anna-Maija Korpi, Ambassador
Embassy of Finland in the State Union Serbia and Montenegro

For Sweden, the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental considerations are priorities for cooperation with Serbia and Montenegro. This involves support to regional and national environmental reforms aiming at improvements in environmental services and sustainable development in local communities. Cooperation with the REC is important for our efforts to strengthen environment capacity and awareness in civil society, and for environmentally sustainable community development. REC Serbia and Montenegro and the other country offices in the region are key partners in these efforts. The REC has considerable experience with environmental policy and project management in transition countries throughout Eastern Europe, and the ability to further draw on expertise and resources in the region. We highly appreciate its competent team and our fruitful cooperation.

Magdalena Svensson, Programme Coordinator
Environment, Energy, Infrastructure
Development Programme Section
Embassy of Sweden

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The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Mission

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

The REC interprets and puts into practice this mission in the spirit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, giving due attention to the links between social, economic and environmental issues.

Vision

As an international environmental service provider, the REC has a vision to:

- Develop into a catalyst of sustainable environmental solutions/programs in the CEE region;
- Facilitate interaction among stakeholders;
- Disseminate best practices from the CEE to SEE and to other REC partners;
- Promote networking, twinning and other means of donor/recipient interaction in the area of operation.

History and Geography

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices and field offices in 16 beneficiary countries which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

Legal Status

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is legally based on a Charter signed by the governments of twenty-eight countries and the European Commission, and on an International Agreement with the government of Hungary. It has a special legal status, based on an inter-governmental cooperative arrangement of a multilateral nature to establish an organisation with a special regional purpose. The REC has a head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices and field offices in 16 Central and Eastern European countries. Within Hungary, the REC has the status of an international organisation based on the International Agreement.

The REC is governed by a board of seven to nine directors, who are elected for three years by the signatory governments to the REC Charter. The Board is advised by a General Assembly, which is composed two-thirds by delegates of signatory governments and one-third by independent members. Daily operations of the REC are managed by the executive director.

This governance structure defines a public organisation of international character, independent from the

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direct influence of governments on its operations and fulfilment of its mission. Thus the REC has a uniquely open, flexible and adaptable structure, able to develop very diverse programmes within the frame of its mission. From a legal point of view, the REC is fully eligible to serve governments, NGOs, businesses and all other environmental stakeholders. It can explore, in its own right, any concrete modalities of flexible or formalised cooperation with relevant international and national, governmental, non-governmental and private organisations.

Given that the REC was established by governments, it is not an international non-governmental organisation. However, because of its independence, it cannot be considered an inter-governmental organisation either (according to the criteria of the United Nations). This unique status, partly similar only to a few other organisations, may well become a precedent in developing an open, efficient and accountable model of international cooperation in the future.

Financing

The REC is a not-for-profit organisation relying 100% on project funding. The funding for the projects comes through grants and service contracts from various governments, international organisations and businesses. Recent donors are the European Commission and the governments of Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as other inter-governmental and private institutions.

The main funding sources in the last five years are: the European Commission, the governments of Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, United States and Japan, and various UN agencies.

Objectives

The REC works in various fields of sustainable development, bridging solutions and stakeholders on issues such as environmental policy, biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy, environmental information and waste management. Through different activities, such as training programmes, pilot projects, environmental assessments, educational packages, and grants, the REC seeks to support CEE countries in various political and economic situations. The REC also provides a bridge for transferring regional experience to countries of the whole world.

To achieve its goals, the REC pursues the following objectives:

- Providing relevant services to all stakeholders in solving environmental problems and addressing environmental issues related to EU accession and sustainable development;
- Implementing a multi-stakeholder approach to solving environmental problems; and
- Maintaining both a local presence and a regional perspective on environmental issues.

Major Achievements

The REC carries out some 300 projects a year. Within the last three years some of the most significant regional programmes have been the Regional Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe; the Green Pack multimedia education package; EcoLinks; the Tisza River Basin Integrated Sustainable

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Development; Capacity Building for Improving the Quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Europe/CIS Region); Identification of Municipal Environmental Investments and Partnerships for EU Accession; Strategic Environmental Assessment; and Assistance in Environmental Law Drafting in South Eastern Europe.

Country Offices Network

The REC Country Office Network contributes to the mission of the REC as an international environmental service provider by ensuring local presence, providing the REC programmes and projects that serve local needs, providing local access to the REC services and ensuring that, within the REC activities, the local view is taken into account.

The REC in Serbia and Montenegro

The REC has a strong presence in Serbia and Montenegro through its country office in Belgrade, a field office in Podgorica (Montenegro), and project offices in Pirot, Bečej, Kikinda, Bačka Topola (Serbia) and Podgorica (Montenegro).

The annual turnover of REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro (REC SCG) shows continuous growth: from EUR 315,000 in 2001, to EUR 663,000 in 2002, to EUR 950,000 in 2003, to an expected EUR 1,200,000 in 2004. Around 87% of the annual turnover represents direct investment into the country's environmental sector.

REC SCG has carried out numerous projects in the country and is therefore recognised as a high-profile environmental service provider with extensive knowledge of the current situation related to environmental issues in Serbia and Montenegro.

Legal Status of the REC SCG

REC SCG operates in Serbia and Montenegro as an international organisation, following the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the REC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of FR Yugoslavia in June 2001. In the same year, REC SCG signed the Agreement on Technical and Program Cooperation with the Directorate for Environmental Protection of Republic of Serbia. With the government of the Republic of Montenegro the REC signed a bilateral agreement about the legal status of the REC in Montenegro in April 2004.

Mission of REC SCG

REC SCG follows the REC's general mission to assist in solving environmental problems, by providing various services, encouraging cooperation among relevant environmental stakeholders (including national and local governments, businesses, non-governmental organisations and citizens), supporting free exchange of information and promoting public participation in environmental decision making.

Vision of the REC SCG

REC SCG envisions a democratic, developed, and environmentally sustainable society for Serbia and Montenegro as an integral part of Europe.

Strategic Goals of REC SCG

REC SCG follows the strategic goals of the REC, taking into account the specific circumstances of Serbia and Montenegro as a pre-accession country to the EU. The strategic goals of REC SCG are:

- to provide high quality, innovative, demand driven services to stakeholders, aiming at the highest benefit for Serbia and Montenegro's

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and the global environment, and implementing sustainable development in practice;

- to provide a neutral platform for dialogue, networking and cooperation among stakeholders and partners, at and between national and local levels;
- to maintain the independent character of the organisation through the successful model of governance, international legal status in Serbia and Montenegro, diversified funding and quality of work;
- to continue the proactive development of the organisation to be able to deliver its mission in a rapidly changing context of political, social and economic reconstruction in Serbia and Montenegro.

Main Directions of Work

The focus of REC SCG is environmental service excellence. Since 2001, REC SCG has implemented a large number of environmental projects oriented at providing expert assistance, designing strategic documents and building capacities, with the participation of relevant stakeholder groups.

The main directions of work of REC SCG, supported by a number of topic areas, are the following:

I. CAPACITY BUILDING
II. ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCES/ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENTS
III. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY
V. INTERNATIONAL MANDATES/SECRETARIATS
VI. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT/LOCAL INITIATIVES
VII. NGO SUPPORT
VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IX. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION
X. WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

For additional information about the programmes and projects of REC SCG, please visit our website at:
www.recyu.org.

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COMPENDIUM OF PROJECTS



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Main Directions of Work:

I. CAPACITY BUILDING
II. ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCES/ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENTS
III. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY
V. INTERNATIONAL MANDATES/SECRETARIATS
VI. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT/LOCAL INITIATIVES
VII. NGO SUPPORT
VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IX. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION
X. WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

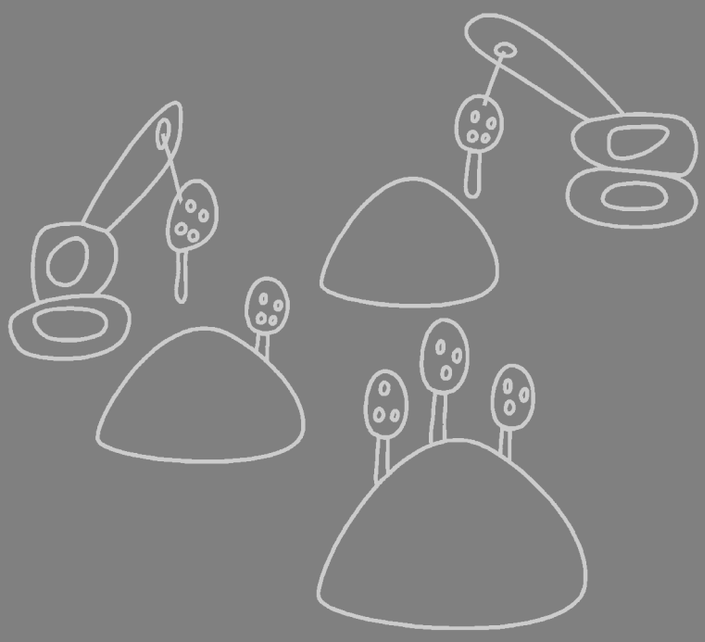
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I. CAPACITY BUILDING

Profile

This direction of work focuses on the provision of courses and curricula to support the transfer of skills and knowledge to REC stakeholders. The REC uses capacity building throughout the majority of its programme areas and strives to identify relevant and necessary capacity building from them. The continuation of development and offering of training curricula and course opportunities is an important component of our support led activities.

The REC has a wealth of experience in both the design and provision of capacity building courses and curricula development. In addition to this strength, the REC can call on a core of REC trainers, external trainers and partners to provide the required substance. The work is carried out in three main capacity-building focuses: individual learning, organisational/institutional development and training services.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **US EPA Training Modules**
- **TRANSPARK - "The Golden Gates of Danube": Trans-boundary Management of Two National Parks in the Iron Gate Area, REReP 4.3.23.1**

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US EPA Training Modules

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro

Project budget
EUR 95,000

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Ministries of Serbia and Montenegro

Origin of funding
US Embassy, Belgrade

Dates (start/end)
December 2003 to December 2004

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to provide services for organising workshops on US EPA training modules. The project envisaged the organisation of four three-day seminars, with participation by representatives of:

- National governments (Serbia and Montenegro);
- NGOs;
- Representatives of universities;
- Representatives of the business sector (industry, chambers of commerce).

US EPA training modules were selected by relevant governmental officials in Serbia and in Montenegro, following state-declared priorities in the field of environmental protection.

Background

The seminars were expected to build the capacities of environmental authorities in Serbia and in Montenegro, as well as of representatives of other interested members of the public (in particular, representatives of the non-governmental, educational and business sectors) through direct information and knowledge transfer using modern training methods. REC SCG provided logistic support and organised these seminars.

Activities

The organisation and logistic support of workshops on EPA training modules selected by government officials in SCG included communication with relevant ministries for identification of potential seminar participants, providing suitable board and lodging for seminar participants and trainers, providing translation and printing of seminar proceedings/materials, providing necessary equipment for smooth realisation of the seminar; providing simultaneous interpretation for seminar participants, and providing local transport for seminar participants and trainers.

The following workshops were organised:

- First workshop on selected training module "Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement" was held in Belgrade, Serbia in February, 2004;
- The second workshop on "Principles of Solid Waste Management Planning" was held in March, 2004 in Prcanj, Montenegro;
- The workshop on "Principles of Risk Management for Contaminated Site Cleanup" was held in June, 2004 at Palic Lake, Serbia; and
- The final workshop will be delivered in November 2004 in Prcanj, Montenegro on "Principles of Hazardous Waste Management".

Country-specific results

- Support of institutional capacity building in Serbia and Montenegro;
- Introduction of modern training methods;
- Trainings on subjects selected by relevant governmental officials in Serbia and in Montenegro, following state-declared priorities in the field of environmental protection;
- Around 30 participants trained at each workshop;
- Strengthening communication among stakeholders.

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Scope
Regional

Countries
Serbia and Montenegro and Romania

Project budget
EUR 51,000

Implemented by REC SCG
50%

Beneficiary
Administrations of two national parks, local municipalities and NGOs

Origin of funding
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany

Dates (start/end)
November 2001 to November 2002

TRANSPARK - "The Golden Gates of Danube": Trans-boundary Management of Two National Parks in the Iron Gate Area, REReP 4.3.23.1

Objective

The project aimed to create the basic preconditions for establishing a system of joint management for two protected areas on opposite sides of the Danube River: Golden Gates Park in Romania and Djerdap National Park in Serbia.

The project aimed at building the necessary institutional capacities required by the Seville Strategy for Biosphere reservations under the UNESCO programme for recognising the status of transboundary reservation in this area. One of the most important activities under the project was to address the recommendations for the establishment of a transboundary biosphere reservation, so that by the end of the project part of the administrative pre-conditions related to the management of the two parks should be improved.

Background

Following the provisions of a number of international documents on biological diversity, the implementation of a series of activities that have been identified as necessary by European international organisations must take place: development of strategies, development of specific legislation, re-evaluation of national networks of protected natural areas, staff training, awareness raising, ratification/signing of related conventions/treaties, inventory of biodiversity and biological resources and assistance with NGO capacity building and strengthening.

These conditions are particularly apparent in Djerdap and Iron Gates parks/protected areas. The two parks face one another across the Danube. UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme recognises the importance of establishing a transboundary biosphere reserve in cases where ecosystems occur across national boundaries, in order to avoid different or even conflicting management and land use practices. Recommendations for the Establishment and Functioning of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves were elaborated under this programme.

The project addressed issues of joint transboundary management of two protected areas as well as the potential for establishing a transboundary biosphere reserve (TBR) in this area.

Activities

- Defining and establishing a common management system for the administration of the two parks;
- Joint capacity-building activities for becoming a TBR;
- Awareness raising on the biological importance of the area and promotion of its assets on both sides of the Danube.

Country-specific results

- Addressing the issue of establishing a common management plan, including not only the administrative issues, but also the steps to be taken in order to become officially recognised as a TBR;
- Assisting the establishment of an efficient joint management system of two protected areas, which would ensure the uniformity of

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rules applying in the areas and would increase the level of protection of the areas;

- Increased capacity of the administration of two protected areas;
- Promote partnerships among key stakeholders working together on mutual strategies for the management of the two parks.

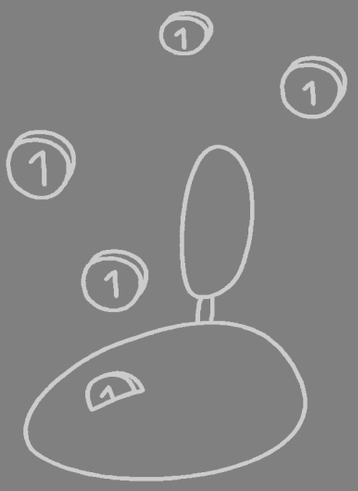
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Profile

This direction of work provides assistance in the area of:

- Strategic environmental investment planning for decision makers;
- Prioritisation of environmental investment projects;
- Providing assistance on the financial implications of the EU directives (targeting investment challenges linked to implementing key investment heavy directives);
- Formulating environmental investment projects for the MoEs and project proponents;
- Design and improvement of financial mechanisms (environmental funds, economic instruments);
- Mapping of environmental business opportunities.The main stakeholders include: ministries of environment, other ministries with environmental responsibilities, international financing institutions, and project proponents from industries, municipalities and companies. Work covers EU member states, the candidate countries and SEE countries. The work of the topic is organised under four main sub-topics:
- Environmental funds assistance (managing the network of European Environmental Funds, providing technical assistance to the funds in CEE);
- Financial implications of EU directives: assistance through the Implementation of the Priority Environmental Investment Programme in South Eastern Europe, capacity building on implementing the WEEE Directive, etc.;
- Structural and Cohesion Funds: Mapping changes and progress in the new member states on developments in the Structural and Cohesion policies;
- Assisting in mapping environmental business opportunities: support provided to private companies interested in environmental sector investments.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **Implementation of the Priority Environmental Investment Programme for South Eastern Europe (follow-up of REReP 1.2 through CARDS)**
- **Assistance in Priority Environmental Investment Programme Development and Implementation, REReP 1.2**
- **Networking of Environmental and Finance Specialists in South Eastern Europe, REREP 1.5.1**

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Implementation of the Priority Environmental Investment Programme for South Eastern Europe (follow-up of REReP 1.2 through CARDS)

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 375,000

Implemented by REC SCG
8%

Beneficiary
Central government officials from SEE and representatives of hot spots

Origin of funding
European Commission

Dates (start/end)
September 2003 to September 2005

Objectives

The project targets some aspects of the investment challenges in assisting the South Eastern European countries in building capacity on:

- Identification of investment projects needed in line with EU requirements;
- Formulation of project concepts to be presented to interested finance institutions;
- Identification of appropriate institutions willing to finance investment projects.

Background

The Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) is on the agendas of all South Eastern European countries that have started, or have prepared to implement, its requirements. The SAP process is seen as an entry strategy that introduces European values, principles and standards to the SEE region and serves as an anchor for reform in the SEE countries in the same way that the accession process had in Central and Eastern Europe.

EU requirements in relation to the environmental sector create one of the most difficult challenges to target in the process of compliance with EU requirements. The challenge exists in particular in respect to the need for investment in improved environmental infrastructure (drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, large combustion plants, waste management facilities, etc.).

Although work is needed to transpose the environmental acquis into national legislation, difficulties are expected to arise in financing the needed environmental infrastructure projects. The major barrier is the lack of capital, but the importance of identifying the relevant (necessary) projects and prioritising them should not be overlooked. Progress also depends on appropriate project formulation and preparation, for which resources in the countries are also limited.

Activities

- Design and development of training materials on investment planning, priority setting, identification of the investment projects, and project cycle management in line with the EU key investment heavy directives;
- Organisation of international meetings and training sessions;
- Environmental policy research and analyses on environmental policies in South Eastern Europe;
- Project formulation for selected "pilot" hot spots in the air, water, waste sector.

Country-specific results

- Upgrading the database of hot spots in Serbia and Montenegro;
- Study on SEE donor profiles and options for financing environmental investment projects;
- Three regional meetings on specific environmental investment sectors: water (Belgrade), air (Zagreb) and waste (Skopje), with the case studies of two selected hot spots per country/entity;
- Regional Meeting for decision makers.

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Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 243,000

Implemented by REC SCG
15%

Beneficiary
Central government officials from SEE

Origin of funding
EC EuropAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6

Dates (start/end)
August 2001 to August 2003

Assistance in Priority Environmental Investment Programme Development and Implementation, REReP 1.2

Objectives

- To assist in the development of the SEE regional priority environmental investment programme (comprising the strategic document and the priority project list);
- To assist in the implementation of the above SEE regional priority environmental investment programme;
- To assist SEE countries in development and implementation of national regional environmental investment programmes and strategies;
- To support regional networking and mutual cooperation in SEE;
- To support the capacity building in environmental investments planning in SEE.

Background

In recent years SEE countries have been dependent almost exclusively on international assistance provided in relation to the financing of environmental investment projects. In the second half of the 1990s this assistance grew and individual bilateral donors provided the largest share of environmental assistance channelled to the region. Taking into account the existing situation in the SEE region, a relevant methodological approach needed to be developed in order to determine the list of SEE environmental priorities and the list of priority environmental investment projects. For these reasons the programme is foreseen to be of primary interest to SEE decision makers responsible for strategic environmental investment planning, as well as to donors and international financing institutions (IFIs), as a support tool that gives regional context to investment planning.

Activities

- Design and development of the training materials on investment planning, priority setting, identification of the investment projects, project cycle management;
- Organisation of international meetings and training sessions;
- Environmental policy research and analyses on environmental priorities in South Eastern Europe;
- Multi-stakeholders meetings and capacity building on investment planning in the sectors of air, waste and water.

Country-specific results

- Pollution reduction targets were identified for Serbia for all environmental sectors.
- 29 hot spots were identified and included into the regional hot spots database.
- Serbia submitted three air sector, eight waste sector and six water sector priority investment project ideas; Montenegro submitted two air sector, three waste sector and three water sector priority investment project ideas.
- Ministry of Environment officials participated in several capacity-building activities (workshops, conferences, trainings and study tours).
- Experts and government officials participated in several regional meetings for identifying a methodology and preparing the assessment report.

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Networking of Environmental and Finance Specialists in South Eastern Europe, REREP 1.5.1

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 552,000

Implemented by REC SCG
8%

Beneficiary
Central government environmental and finance specialists in SEE

Origin of funding
EC EuropAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6 and the Deutsche Gesellschaft f r Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

Dates (start/end)
August 2001 to August 2003

Objectives

- Establishment of the Network of Environmental and Finance Specialists in SEE; the network's aim is to serve as a platform for regional and cross-border exchange of expertise on financing environmental investments in the region;
- Organisation of study visits to environmental funds in the new Member States; visits will facilitate transfer of relevant expertise from the more advanced CEE countries to SEE;
- Assessment of institutional and policy framework for implementation of environmental investments in the SEE region;
- Identification of possible policy and institutional measures which should be taken by the SEE countries to strengthen their capacity for implementation of environmental investments.

Background

Over the past few years, environmental funds in Central and Eastern Europe have played a noticeable role in financing environmental investments in their respective countries. In 1995, the environmental funds established a network that operates in the framework of the EAP Task Force. The network has been providing a base for the mutual learning process, good practices transfer and continuous performance improvement.

Within this framework, guidelines for sound fund management (St Petersburg Guidelines on Environmental Funds in the Transition to a Market Economy, OECD, 1995) were developed. The guidelines identify the criteria that the funds should apply in order to be environmentally effective, economically efficient and financially rigorous public sector institutions. Moreover, the EC PHARE Project Preparation Fund (PPF) has helped to implement technical assistance (1977-1999) to strengthen and improve the Funds' capacity to adhere to the principles and criteria elaborated in the St. Petersburg Guidelines. Currently, the existing environmental funds continue to face additional challenges related to their potential role in financing EU accession-related investments.

SEE countries undergoing economic restructuring and institution building, as well as seeking long-term goal of EU accession, have already acknowledged the possible benefits of environmental funds.

Activities

- Organisation of international meetings, seminars and conferences for the network members;
- Organisation of a study visit to the successful environmental funds in CEE;
- Research and policy analyses;
- Organisation of networking activities;
- Series of workshops on identifying and formulating environmental infrastructure projects with a focus on: (a) technical, economic, financial, environmental, social and institutional considerations of project development; (b) preparation of alternative project solutions; (c)

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specific requirements of project preparation for EU funds;
- Assistance in development of environmental infrastructure projects (focus on projects in water/wastewater and municipal solid waste sectors);
- Organisation of networking events for CEE.

Country-specific results

- Drafting a national report on the institutional and policy framework in Serbia and Montenegro;
- Participation of representatives of relevant institutions in Serbia and Montenegro in the study visit to environmental funds in Poland and the Czech Republic;
- Regional Assessment of Institutional and Policy Framework for Priority Environmental Investments in SEE compiled;
- Representatives of relevant institutions in Serbia and Montenegro participate at the first and second meetings of the Network of Environmental and Finance Specialists in SEE.

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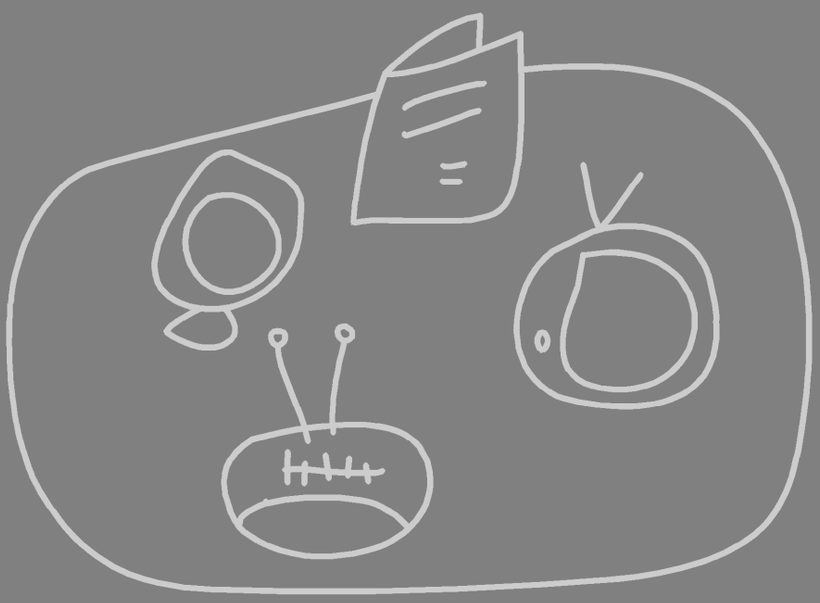
III. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Profile

This direction of work aims to provide free access to information and to assist others in improving access to information. Concentrating on the Central and Eastern European region, it also promotes cooperation among environmental stakeholders.

Through its activities, the programme raises environmental awareness and facilitates public involvement in decision-making processes, thus encouraging greater environmental responsibility among diverse target groups.

It provides free access to regional environmental information and raises environmental awareness, encourages networking and cooperation among environmental stakeholders and also assists others in improving access to environmental information.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **Facilitating Access to Environmental Information**
- **EarthWire Serbia and Montenegro**
- **Environmental Resource Centre (ERC)**
- **Development of Regional Environmental Press Centre for SEE (REPC), REReP 2.1**
- **Development of National Information Systems, REReP 1.8.**
- **Balkan Information Service, REReP 1.16**

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Facilitating Access to Environmental Information

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project Budget
EUR 20,000

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Environmental media professionals, NGOs in Serbia

Origin of funding
DEFRA UK

Dates (start/end)
January 2004 to September 2004

Objectives

The project Facilitating Access to Environmental Information was designed to enhance and encourage processes of environmental information dissemination and thus promote principles of free access to environmental data in Serbia and Montenegro. Specific objectives were:

- To facilitate access to environmental information in Serbia;
- To bridge the information gap on environment issues and improve access to relevant data for selected stakeholders;
- To identify and select relevant experts to process environmental information;
- To compile relevant environmental quality information and publish it on the Internet and in hard copy, and distribute it;
- To build capacities in the environmental media sector in Belgrade through training session on access to environmental information.

Background

The Republic of Serbia had recently joined the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and through this institutional framework managed to obtain financial support from the CARDS Programme to set up a national environmental information system. This information system is envisaged as a part of the future Environmental Protection Agency, and was expected to be launched in 2004.

The role of the REC and other similar organisations operating in Serbia, civil associations and NGOs dealing with environmental issues, should therefore primarily focus on the facilitation of information flow from competent government authorities through the national environmental information system, to various stakeholder groups.

Activities

The project activities were focused on the city of Belgrade, the capital and largest city in Serbia and Montenegro, with a population close to 2 million, equalling around 25% of the total population of the Republic of Serbia. The main project tool was the Report on the State of Environment in Belgrade, which was compiled and posted on the Web and available in hard copy. The Report encompasses the following sections:

1. Air - Quality of air, Data on air pollution, Polluters and pollution sources, Health impacts, Zoning, Recommendations for minimising emissions, etc.
2. Water - Quality of ground waters, Physical and chemical characteristics, Microbiological characteristics, Belgrade water supply system, Recommendations, etc.
3. Soil - Ground pollution, Pollution sources, Health impacts, etc.
4. Noise - Monitoring results, Health impacts, Recommendations, etc.

Within the project, training sessions on access to environmental information were organised, targeting professionals engaged in media and interested in environmental journalism, representatives of NGOs dealing with environmental information dissemination, representatives of competent institutions and members of authorities at the local level

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engaged in the field of environmental information. A workshop for the presentation of the project and project outcomes was also organised.

Country-specific results

- Compiled and distributed the Report on the State of Environment in Belgrade available on the Internet (www.recyu.org/yu/izdanja/2004/kvalitet.htm) and in hard copy.
- Trained environmental media professionals from Serbia at a three-day workshop on various topics from the field of environment protection.
- Networked environmental media professionals.
- Presented the project and project results for Earth Day 2004 at the Town Hall of Belgrade.

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EarthWire Serbia and Montenegro

Objectives

The objective of the project is to enhance access to environmental information via the Internet, by launching and maintaining a free daily portal with press summaries of the most important environmental news.

Background

EarthWire Serbia and Montenegro (www.earthwire.org/Serbia) is a free daily service that gives Internet users an overview of environmental news from Serbia and Montenegro. The web service is developed by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, while REC SCG manages the daily maintenance and updating through reviewing the major on-line newspapers from the country for environment and sustainable development-related news stories. Relevant stories are linked to EarthWire Serbia and Montenegro. Relevant news and press releases from ministries, NGOs, research institutions and corporations are also linked or posted on the web pages. Through project implementation, REC SCG fulfils the following objectives:

- Ensuring updating of the website on a daily basis by the team of consultants;
- Taking responsibility for the content of the page and appropriateness of links;
- Acting as the focal point for ministries and other organisations wishing to publish press releases/-news on EarthWire Serbia and Montenegro;
- Taking responsibility for recruiting, coordination, and performance management of consultants.

Activities

- Recruiting and training of consultants to scan the newspapers and search for the relevant news, then posting them to the portal;
- Daily maintenance of the portal.

Country-specific results

For all project related issues and additional information, please visit the daily updated page at www.earthwire.org/serbia.

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project Budget
Initial funds:
EUR 3,260

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Environmental sector in SCG, especially media, and all other interested groups and individuals

Origin of funding
UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Dates (start/end)
November 2002 (ongoing)

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Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro

Project Budget
EUR 105,297

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
All interested stakeholders in Serbia and Montenegro, including NGOs, media, and government authorities

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund

Dates (start/end)
January 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

Environmental Resource Centre (ERC)

Objectives

The objective was to establish a resource centre dedicated to broad publishing and exchange of information related to the environment in Serbia and Montenegro and the region. The goal was to improve information exchange and public information, to support the non-governmental sector, raise overall consciousness about the significance of environmental protection and to strengthen public influence on decision making related to the environment. A web portal was developed, consisting of different sections (www.erc.org.yu):

- News;
- Events;
- Institutions;
- Experts;
- NGOs;
- Public media and independent journalists;
- Environment related projects;
- Data on environment quality;
- Forums and discussion groups;
- Questionnaires;
- Electronic catalogue of sorted publications.

Background

The environmental situation in SCG, both in governmental and non-governmental terms, experienced many problems due to the lack of resources, the low level of management skills, a lack of vision of advantages of joint action, and especially incomplete knowledge and data. In spite of this pronounced need, there was no resource centre offering various services to the environmental stakeholders and other interested parties.

The establishment of the Environmental Resource Center significantly improved the efficiency of environmental stakeholder activities and contributed to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in SCG.

Activities

- Information technology development;
- Information dissemination;
- WEB portal design and maintenance.

Country-specific results

- The Environmental Resource Center (ERC) was furnished with functional and ergonomic furniture.
- ERC was equipped with modern electronic and office devices: personal computers connected through intranet, printers, web server, mail server, online Internet access, fax machine, photocopier, scanner, photo equipment; PCs and software were purchased; a library of more than 2,000 environmental titles was established and available to the general public.
- The Internet database was tested under real conditions.
- The Agreement for the Establishment of the Environmental Resource Center was signed by the REC, REC SCG, the Directorate for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, and the Executive Board of the City of Belgrade. ERC functions according the Agreement, by equally providing services to all interested parties and relevant stakeholders with full support from REC SCG.
- A joint press conference was held with representatives of ERC, REC SCG, the Directorate for Environmental Protection of Republic of Serbia, and the City of Belgrade on the occasion of establishment of ERC.

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Development of Regional Environmental Press Centre for SEE (REPC), REReP 2.1

Objectives

The project sought to improve media coverage of the region's environment by making information more available to journalists. The aim was to establish a Regional Environmental Press Centre (REPC) in South Eastern Europe (SEE) with its headquarters in FYR Macedonia to:

- Carry out a needs assessment of the challenges facing environmental journalism in SEE;
- Establish and run the REPC;
- Establish and run a network of satellite offices of the REPC;
- Create and maintain a website containing useful information for journalists in SEE;
- Provide a database of expert contacts;
- Produce a twice-monthly tip-sheet for journalists about the SEE environment and NGOs activities; and
- Run an environmental reporting workshop.

Background

The mass media is a crucial link in communication between government, citizens, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other stakeholders in the environment. The public must be informed about environmental matters and environmental questions if there is to be true public participation in environmental decision making. Members of the public who are aware of environmental concerns need more information if they are going to participate in decision making in environmental matters.

What's more, a large segment of the public may not be sufficiently aware of environmental concerns. While the average citizen of South Eastern Europe (SEE) is probably very concerned about the need to rebuild, and further develop, the infrastructure of the region, many may not know enough about the complex environmental problems that must be dealt with as development takes place.

Surveys have shown that one of the best ways to inform a broad section of the public quickly about development or government activities that may impact them is through the mass media: newspapers, magazines, television, radio, billboards and the Internet. But the mass media will not carry information about the environment unless the journalists or news reporters who fill the mass media are aware of this information. In order to prepare thoughtful, balanced news stories, journalists need access to reliable and timely information.

Activities

- A project committee was set up.
- A needs assessment study and analytical report identified the primary needs of environmental journalists in SEE as: new and independent information sources, professional capacity building and networking, and contacts with other journalists from the region.
- The Regional Environmental Press Centre was established.
- A network of in-country media resource points was created in all eight countries and territories covered by the project. The resource points were hosted by existing non-profit organisations with relevant experience and capacity to serve environmental journalists.

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 226,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Beneficiary
Environmental media and the NGO community in SEE

Origin of funding
Stability Pact for SEE and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Dates (start/end)
April 2002
to September 2003

Name of partners
Forum for Sustainable Development and Environment Protection, Belgrade (www.EkoForum.org.yu)

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- The regional portal website "Services for Environmental Journalists from SEE" was launched at www.repc.net.
- A database of environmental experts from SEE was produced.
- The SEE Environment Watch tip-sheet for journalists has been distributed by e-mail since October 2002. The tip-sheet was edited in cooperation with the project team and the REC's Information Programme editorial team, and distributed jointly to over 200 subscribing journalists.
- A regional training workshop for environmental journalists was held in FYR Macedonia, entitled "Environment in the News". The training focused on practical professional skills in environmental story writing. Paul Brown, the environment correspondent for The Guardian (UK) was the lead trainer.

Country-specific results

- Surveys were distributed and a needs assessment was completed in Serbia and Montenegro identifying priority needs of country journalists.
- A local information office for SCG was established to collect and distribute environmental information at the national and regional level and improve the cooperation of journalists who write on environmental themes. The selected informative office in Serbia and Montenegro is the NGO Eko Forum: A Forum for Sustainable Development and Environment.
  (Contacts:
  e-mail: ekoforum@eunet.yu,
  website: www.ekoforum.org.yu)
- Representatives of Serbia and Montenegro participated in the training session Environment in the News.

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Development of National Information Systems, REReP 1.8.

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 670,000

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Beneficiary
SEE Ministries of Environment and other competent national institutions

Origin of funding
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands

Dates (start/end)
April 2001
to December 2003

Objectives

The project aimed to help South Eastern European countries and territories reduce technological and sociological barriers to building their own environmental information systems. Its main goals were to:

- Enhance the accessibility of current, high-quality environmental information;
- Offer a framework for long-term regional cooperation;
- Facilitate participation in the EIONET network and implement the Aarhus Convention.

Background

A number of state-of-the-art information technology (IT) tools have been utilised by governments to enhance citizens' access to environmental information, with the ultimate goals of fostering democracy and improving civil society, and fulfilling international legal obligations and reporting requirements. The Development of National Environmental Information Systems project, implemented between April 2001 and December 2003, aimed to help countries and territories in South Eastern Europe (SEE) to develop their own environmental information systems. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands funded this project within the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP) to encourage the wider use of information technology in processing and disseminating environmental information to the public. The project encouraged the exchange of environmental information and experience in building information systems, particularly in the SEE region. Project activities took place in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia (the project's lead country), FYR Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory currently under UN interim administration).

Activities

- Establishment of project steering committee;
- Implementation of needs assessments;
- Hosting of a regional meeting, Opatija, November 2001;
- Provision of financial assistance (app. EUR 450,000);
- Funding of a pilot marine information system in Croatia;
- Hosting of training workshops;
- Sharing best practice in the use of IT;
- NGO-ministerial meeting (wrap-up workshop, Sofia, June 2003);
- Final summary report.

Country-specific results

- Key points of the Action plan for national environmental information system in Serbia and Montenegro were developed.
- To improve the dissemination of environmental information to the public, an annual report containing basic environmental quality data on air, water, land and noise, and details on how to access environmental information resources was published (500 copies) in hard copy and online (PDF format) by REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro, in partnership with the

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Secretariat of Environment of the City of Belgrade.

- Relying on the data collected by the Hydro-Meteorological Institute, the local television network broadcasted information on environmental quality on a daily basis following the nightly news. With a Serbian viewing audience of 23 percent, this has greatly increased environmental awareness.
- A web portal on the quality of the state of environment at was launched at

  www.erc.org.yu/kzs/default.aspx.

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Balkan Information Service, REReP 1.16

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 185,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Beneficiary
SEE civil sector

Origin of funding
US EPA

Dates (start/end)
November 2000 to October 2002

Objectives

- To host a question and answer information service based on REReP priorities;
- To collect all key environmental information relating to the environmental priorities of the Stability Pact and the region;
- To maintain environmental databases for library and information centres, events, legislation and funding sources for NGOs;
- To host an online website for the information service;
- To copy all tangible REC products and results emerging from Stability Pact projects to relevant institutions;
- To produce a monthly news brief summarising the results of REReP.

Background

The Balkan Information Service was established to serve all environmental stakeholders (governments, non-governmental organisations, media and academia) and the general public interested in obtaining information about REReP and its implementation process. The service offers in-depth data on all projects undertaken in the framework of REReP and serves as a gateway to environmental information from the Balkans.

Moreover, the project provides useful information to all major stakeholders in SEE, including national and local governments, NGOs, media and academia from the Stability Pact countries. These countries include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro. Countries, institutions and organisations outside this area, including those within Central and Eastern Europe, the EU and the rest of the world are welcome to exploit this service.

Activities

- Project website launched with all related information;
- Production of an information brochure in five languages;
- Publishing an electronic news brief titled Green Horizon;
- Launching and maintaining a database of environmental events;
- Publishing an online database of environmental legislation;
- Publishing an online database and directory of environmental NGOs funding sources;
- Publishing an online database and directory of environmental information resources and services in Central and Eastern Europe.

Country-specific results

Specific results carried out through this programme in Serbia and Montenegro were collected and compiled data on governmental, NGO, media, academic institutions and data on funding sources in SCG which were parts of the regional publications printed, and established service of daily environmental news on the web portal of REC CO Serbia and Montenegro www.erc.org.yu . The project results also included: compiled directories of environmental information services (libraries) in Serbia and Montenegro (searchable online:
http://www.rec.org/REC/Databases/EnvInfDirectory/Search.html and soon available in hard copy), launched distribution lists of REC SCG where the daily information has been disseminated to environmental stakeholders and all the interested parties in SCG.

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IV. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Profile

In a complex world, functioning legal rules are one of the mainstays of the movement towards environmental protection and sustainable development. Laws on permitting, standards, enforcement and compliance mechanisms, tax regulations, liability regimes and citizens' environmental rights all play a part in translating policies, goals and social objectives into reality. Other key pieces of the puzzle are the professionalism of dedicated environmental lawyers and prosecutors, and the independent and informed consideration of judges.

The REC is dedicated to the progressive development of environmental law, both internationally and within each Central and Eastern European (CEE) country, through support to development of multilateral environmental agreements, state-of-the-art legislation, citizens' environmental rights and legal professionalism.

REC staff has a long-term commitment to environmental law reform in CEE, beginning with constitutional reforms in the early 1990s and proceeding all the way through the EU accession process and beyond.

The REC has been directly involved in and contributed significantly to the development of many multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) with relevance to the region, and has supported various convention secretariats through legislative assessments, implementation guides and case studies, and similar activities.

The Joint Environmental Law Service Consortium represents a combination of the environmental legal capacities of three premier international organisations (UNEP-ROE, IUCN Law Center, REC).

Our network of lawyers and legal professionals in the CEE region is unparalleled.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **Assistance in Environmental Law Drafting in South Eastern Europe, REReP 1.3/CARDS 1.3**
- **Development of Environmental Legislation in Serbia and Montenegro (YUGOLEX)**
- **Capacity building for EU approximation in SEE countries, REReP 1.9**
- **Environmental Legal Advocacy and Advisory Centers (ELAACs) for South Eastern Europe, REReP 2.6**
- **Capacity Building for Environmental Impact Assessment, REReP 1.4**
- **AIMS - Support for Ratification and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, REReP 1.12**
- **Capacity to Develop National GHG Inventories in Serbia and Montenegro**
- **Promoting Integration of Environmental Concerns into Sectoral Policies in SEE, REReP 1.30**
- **NAWAMS - National Water Monitoring Strategy**
- **Diagnostic Audit - Tisza River Basin Assessment of Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks Related to Sustainable Water Management in Five Tisza Riparian Countries**
- **Supporting the Carpathian Convention - Diagnostic Audit and Guide to Implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

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Profile

The REC has made a long-term commitment to environmental law reform in countries in transition through the European Union accession process and beyond. The REC promotes the practical implementation of environmental law and the development of good governance practices through, inter alia:

- Promotion of environmental law reform and development of state-of-the-art legislation through legislative drafting assistance, targeted capacity-building workshops and regional exchange of experience;
- Assessment of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of community environmental law in new member states (conformity checking);
- Development of strategies for EU approximation in SEE through the Stabilisation and Association Process, including coordination of assistance and sharing of outputs from bilateral projects in the region;
- Transfer of experience and lessons learned to Turkey, EECCA and other regions;
- Producing high quality publications, assessments and diagnostic audits on important environmental law and sustainable development issues.



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Assistance in Environmental Law Drafting in South Eastern Europe, REReP 1.3/CARDS 1.3

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 1,052,000

Implemented by REC SCG
15%

Beneficiary
Central government officials in SEE

Origin of funding
EC EuropAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6

Dates (start/end)
August 2001 to August 2003
(With extension to September 2005)

Objectives

- To stimulate the drafting of environmental legislation in the beneficiary countries that is consistent as far as possible with existing European Union legislation and other international environmental legal norms;
- To support regional cooperation on environmental law through establishment of and support to an Environmental Law Drafting Network of Senior Officials in SEE (ELDNSO);
- To ensure a regional strategic approach to the ongoing and upcoming legal drafting work through regular coordination meetings of the network and involvement of international experts;
- To facilitate the transfer of experience from the CEE (accession) countries to SEE countries through topic oriented workshops and exchange of experience.
- To assist in prioritisation of needs in SEE countries/entities and the targeting of assistance on environmental law drafting;
- To provide targeted international legal expertise on particular environmental law drafting issues.

Background

The countries of SEE presented institutional strengthening and policy development as their first priority for environmental reconstruction of their countries in the ministerial meeting in Skopje, FYR Macedonia, on January 26-27, 2000. It is also one of the key elements of the "institutional and policy development" component of REReP proposed by the European Commission DG-Environment. Assistance to SEE governments in drafting environmental laws, with particular accent on those related to biodiversity and EIA and SEA, was identified as one of the main activities in this area.

The sub-tasks were identified to achieve the goal of stimulating the drafting of environmental legislation in South Eastern Europe that is consistent as far as possible with EU approximation and other international environmental legal norms. The Scope of the project takes into account the needs preliminarily identified by the representatives of the countries/localities themselves as well as those expressed by the EC's DG-Environment.

Activities

- Sub-Task a: Regional Environmental Law Drafting Network of Senior Officials
- Sub-Task b: Assessing Environmental Law Drafting Needs in SEE: Phase One Report
- Sub-Task c: International environmental expertise
- Sub-Task d: Exchanges, seminars, and capacity building workshop

Country-specific results

- The Regional Environmental Law Drafting Network of Senior Officials (ELDNSO) was formally established.
- Assessing Environmental Law Drafting Needs in South Eastern Europe, Phase One Report has been published, providing a regional overview of the state of environ-

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mental law and gaps to be bridged in the near future.

- A matrix of the international assistance projects has been prepared that provides an overview of the EU directives which are addressed in the SEE countries.
- One request for technical assistance per country/entity was addressed and assistance provided which resulted in the drafting or amendments of legal acts, concrete recommendations for further environmental law development and built capacity for legal drafting.
- The Regional Conference on Prioritisation of Environmental Law Drafting Needs in SEE was held in Celebici, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on July 11-13, 2002.
- The regional workshop on Strategy towards EU Environmental Law Approximation in SEE Region took place on April 3-4, 2003 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Serbia and Montenegro

A detailed review identified current permitting procedures for development consents through a gap analysis of domestic legislation with EU EIA requirements and a table of concordance. A set of recommendations were formulated for achievement of full transposition of EU requirements and a draft EIA regulation was prepared.

Republic of Serbia

A detailed review of current chemicals related regulations provided a set of recommendations for setting up a comprehensive legislative framework on chemicals, in compliance with the EU acquis through a gap analysis focusing on the current principles of existing EU legislation and the principles that are provided in the EC White Paper "Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy."

Republic of Montenegro

A detailed consistency/compliance checking of the draft law on air protection with the EU air legislation assisted ministry representatives in creating a new draft of the law through a table of concordance and recommendations on needed further amendments and proposing concrete text amendments.

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Development of Environmental Legislation in Serbia and Montenegro (YUGOLEX)

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro

Project Budget
EUR 2,000,000

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Central government

Origin of funding
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Dates (start/end)
April 2002 to April 2005

Objective

Contribution to overall objective that environmental laws, compliant with EU legislation, are in place and enforced throughout SCG.

The Project focuseson developing relgualtion on Environmental Impact Assesment and Stretgic Environmental Assessment (EIA/SEA), Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control (IPPC) and acces to environmental information.

Background

REC as the partner of the project implemntation group with Ramboll Finnconsult Oy., Finaland and Ramboll Natura AB, Sweden has worked on two following topcis:

- Harmonization of legislation of Seria and of Montenegro with EU Directives on environmental impact assessment (EIA, SEA), integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and Freedom of Access to Information on the Environment;
- Providing support to development of institutional set-up and capacities of environmental administration for enforcement of new legislation.

Activities

- Drafting of relevant legislation instruments;
- Administering specific assisstance programs;
- Providing wide dissemenitaion of preject results and information about process of harmonization and general EU accession.

Results

Major outputs of the Project are:

- Draft texts of the secondary legislation instruments for the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro, i.e.:
  - EIA Related Regulations;
  - SEA Related Regulations;
  - IPPC Related Regulations;
- Lists of EIA and IPPC installation and activities/companies in Serbia and in Montenegro as follows:
  - List of IPPC installations in accordance with Annex I of the EU IPPC Directives;
  - List of medium and small-scale installations not affected by the IPPC;
  - List of pilot installations/companies;
  - List of project/activities always requiring EIA;
  - List of projects/installations for which EIA may be required, etc;
- More then 30 professional papers on the Project subject mater;
- Six legislative instruments from different countries translated into Serbian;
- EU Directives at the Project stake translated into Serbian and published.
- Draft texts of the secondary legislation instruments (drafted in 2003, as secondary legislation to the Law on the System of Environmental Protection), i.e.:
  - EIA Regulations;
  - SEA Regulations;
  - IPPC Regulations;
- Lists of EIA and IPPC installation and activities/companies in Serbia Šthe as follows:

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- List of IPPC installations in accordance with Annex I of the EU IPPC Directives;
- List of medium and small-scale installations not affected by the IPPC;
- List of pilot installations/companies;
- List of project/activities always requiring EIA;
- List of projects/installations for which EIA may be required, etc;

- Draft texts of primary and secondary legislation (drafted in 2004, as a solution alternative to the solution based on the Law on the System of Environmental Protection):
  - Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Law);
  - [Governmental] Decree on Projects Subject to EIA and to Assessment of Existing State on Environment (EIA Decree);
  - [Ministerial] Regulation on the Contents of the Developer's Application, Contents and Scope of EIA Study, Contents, Format and Method of Public Register Keeping (EIA Regulation);
  - Law on Integrated Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC Law);
  - [Governmental] Decree on Installations and Activities that are Subject to Integrated Permit Issuance, on the Contents of Programmes of Measures of Bringing of the Existing Installations or Activities in Compliance with set Conditions, on Criteria for Determination of BAT, Implementation of Environmental Quality Standards, and on Setting of Emission Limit Values in the Integrated Permit (IPPC Decree);
  - [Ministerial] Regulation on the Contents and Way of Keeping of the Register on IPPC Permits Issued (IPPC Regulation);
  - Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Law).
- Almost 50 professional papers on the Project subject mater;
- More then 20 power point presentations;
- Six legislative instruments from different countries translated into Serbian;
- EU Directives at the Project stake translated into Serbian and published.
- Legal Assessment Report (an internal document), completed in July 2003 and handed over to the MPNRE, was prepared by TL on the basis of understanding between TL and PD and Minister for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment and endorsement of the Project SCO and the SVB (it is attached to this Report).
- Lists of EIA and IPPC installation and activities/companies in Montenegro, as follows:
  - List of IPPC installations in accordance with Annex I of the EU IPPC Directives;
  - List of medium and small-scale installations not affected by the IPPC;
  - List of pilot installations/companies;
  - List of project/activities always requiring EIA;
  - List of projects/installations for which EIA may be required, etc;
- Draft texts of primary and secondary legislation:
  - Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Law);
  - [Governmental] Decree on Projects Subject to EIA (EIA Decree);
  - [Ministerial] Regulation on the Contents of Documents, Forms, Elaborate on EIA and of the Public Register (EIA Regulation);

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- Law on Integrated Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC Law);
- [Governmental] Decree on Installations and Activities that are Subject to Integrated Permit Issuance, on the Contents of Programmes of Measures of Bringing of the Existing Installations or Activities in Compliance with set Conditions, on Criteria for Determination of BAT,on Implementation of Environmental Quality Standards, and on Setting of Emission Limit Values in the Integrated Permit (IPPC Decree);
- [Ministerial] Regulation on the Contents and Way of Keeping of the Register on IPPC Permits Issued (IPPC Regulation);
- Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Law);
- [Ministerial] Regulation of the Contents of the Report on SEA and Criteria for its evaluation;

All the eight pieces of draft texts of legislation have been officially handed over to the MEPSP on July 27th, 2004;

- Roto publication in Serbian, with the first draft text of legislation printed in 600 copies and distributed as the attachment to the Project Bulletin No. 17, with call for critical feedback from the public of Montenegro. These drafts are published at the Project ***wwww.Yugolex.org.yu*** too.
- 15 professional papers on the Project subject mater (almost all in both English and Serbian);
- The Portugal Law on EIA translated into Serbian;
- The most important EU Directives at the Project stake translated into Serbian and published.

Project workshops were held as follows:

- Public Informative Workshop (Belgrade, June 17th, 2002);
- Public Workshop on EIA & SEA (Belgrade, December 13th, 2002);
- Public Workshop on IPPC (Belgrade, January 22nd, 2003);
- Workshop of the internal character (Valjevo, September 14th, 2002);
- Drafting Workshop (Palić, February 28th-March 1st-4th, 2003);
- Public Workshop on EIA, SEA & IPPC Related regulations (Belgrade, 22 May, 2003)
- Three Public Informative Workshops with the business companies were held in:
  - Novi Sad (January 31st, 2003);
  - Niš (February 25th, 2003);
  - Kragujevac (March 10th, 2003);
- Public Informative Workshop (Belgrade, June 17th, 2002) (see Memo 22);
- Public Workshop on EIA & SEA (Belgrade, December 13th, 2002) (see Memo 65);
- Public Workshop on IPPC (Belgrade, January 22nd, 2003) (see Memo 77);
- Workshop of the internal character (Valjevo, September 14th, 2002) (see Memo, 43);
- Drafting Workshop (Palić, February 28th-March 1st-4th, 2003) (see Memo 85);
- Public Informative Workshops with the business companies were held in:
  - Novi Sad (January 31st, 2003) (see Memo 81);
  - Niš (February 25th, 2003) (see Memo 84);
  - Kragujevac (March 10th, 2003) (see Memo 86);
- Public workshop on drafted legal instruments (Hall of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, April 29th, 2003) (see Memo 91);
- Public Workshop on EIA, SEA, IPPC and access to environmental

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information (Belgrade, May 22nd, 2003) (see Memo 96);
- Second Public Informative Workshop with Industrial Companies of Vojvodina (October 22nd , Novi Sad) (see Memo 129);
- ELVs Workshop (December 23rd , Belgrade) (see Memo 143);
- Drafting Workshop II (Final)-Republic of Serbia (April 8-12, 2003, Palic) (see Memo 167);
- International Conference HARMONIZAZION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION OF SERBIA WITH EU REQUIREMENTS (Belgrade, 31st May, 2004) (see Memo 177);
- Third Public Informative Workshop with Industrial Companies (of Srem) (at Sremska Mitrovica, July 7th, 2004) (Memo 192);
- Other important events the Project or the Project results were presented at:
  - REReP 1.3 (Jablaničko jezero 2002; Ohrid 2003);
  - Eco-Conference Novi Sad, 2003;
  - Standing Conference of Municipalities and Towns, Committee for Environment Protection, 2004;
  - Pulp & Paper Industrial branch: Čigota, 2003; Belgrade 2004; Čigota 2004.
- First Public Informative Workshop DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN MONTENEGRO, (IW.Mtg) on 2nd October, 2003 in Podgorica (see Memo 122);
- First Internal Workshop (F.Int.W.Mtg), on 7th February, 2004 at Podgorica (see 152.Memo);
- Workshop on Drafting of Environmental Legislation (internal) (WDEL(i), from 24th till 29th March, 2004, at Muo (see Memo 160);
- Workshop on Drafting of Environmental Legislation (internal) (WDEL(ii), from 14th till 15th July, 2004, at Podgorica (see Memo 194);

PR activities and dissemination of information on the Project and Project activities were as follows:
- PR Project material was distributed to a large number (more then 6.000) of all categories of stakeholders;
- Web site contains the most recent information and material related to the Project;
- Project Bulletin has been published on the monthly basis;
- Six EU Directives of the closest interest for the Project have been translated into Serbian and published (in approx. 850 copies) in a bilingual publication (English/Serbian) entitled EU DIRECTIVES IN FOCUS.

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Capacity building for EU approximation in SEE countries, REReP 1.9

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 535,400

Implemented by REC SCG
9%

Beneficiary
SEE Ministries of Environment

Origin of funding
GTZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft f r Technische Zusammenarbeit

Dates (start/end)
May 2002 to May 2003

Objectives

The overall objective of the project was to assist the countries of South Eastern Europe to develop their capacities for EU approximation by assessing their situation and transferring the expertise from EU and applicant countries. The specific objectives of the first project stage were:

- To assess the situation in the SEE countries from the point of view of their readiness for EU approximation;
- To define exactly what tasks need to be carried out in order to build their capacity for EU approximation as quickly as possible;
- To obtain explicit commitments and agreement on country-specific Scope of work from each SEE country individually;
- To assist the countries in launching the implementation of those tasks; and
- To establish an international network of key SEE officials in order to build capacity for EU approximation through mutual exchange of experience and expertise, including expert input from the EU and current applicant countries.

Background

During the decade of wars, instability and slow post-communist reform, both society and the environment in Serbia and Montenegro suffered significantly. Reconstruction efforts being rapidly implemented, it was essential to address issues of environmental legislation enforcement. This did not only ensure further democratisation and rule of law in the country, but also significantly enhanced processes directed towards EU accession. In this sense, environmental protection institutions and inspectorates still play an important role in ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and the implementation of environmental policy in SCG.

Generally speaking, the environmental institutions responsible for enforcement in all SEE countries face common difficulties, such as: lack of human, technical and financial resources; uncertain structure and position within the governments; insufficient compliance regulatory frameworks, compliance control procedures and enforcement tools; ineffectiveness of current compliance enforcement activities; weak environmental permitting system for industrial activities; noncompliance with multilateral environmental agreements; lack of promoting public participation in enforcement.

Activities

The following project activities were envisaged to be implemented in Serbia and Montenegro:

- Assessment of efforts that have been undertaken in regards to capacity building and institutional strengthening of EPAs and inspectorates in SCG;
- Ensuring governmental verification for such an assessment;
- Coupling this initiatives with other relevant/similar initiatives that are being implemented;
- Provision of relevant training;
- Provision of technical assistance.

Country-specific results

- Appraisal of the needs assessments for SCG inspectorates carried out;

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- Training foci prioritised and jointly nominated by governmental focal points and the REC;
- Training needs of environmental inspectorates recognised;
- Training for Serbian and Montenegrin inspectors carried out, three training events efficiently conducted, a total of app. 50 inspectors trained;
- Technical needs assessment conducted and equipment provided (computer equipment for the ministries of Serbia and Montenegro).

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Profile

Profile The REC has developed a strong profile in access to justice, environmental advocacy and justice, and environment and human rights. This has been achieved through direct support to environmental lawyers and environmental law centres, networking and collecting case studies, attention to professional development of lawyers in the region, publications, conferences, and other areas. By supporting access to environmental justice and advocacy, the REC helps to provide opportunities for citizens and NGOs to make use of environmental rights to solve issues of direct impact on their lives. Successful use of legal rights and implementation of environmental law depends on an effective and well-informed judiciary, active and responsible prosecutors, and dedicated environmental advocates applying high professional standards. The REC works with such legal professionals, as well as authorities and those who use legal services (clients) or support their use (journalists, experts, etc.). The REC also assesses the state of environmental justice in the CEE and UN/ECE region, identifies good and bad practices on access to environmental justice, and uses them as a basis for capacity building. The REC is actively promoting the close linkage between environment and human rights and is seeking ways to promote a stronger involvement of human rights organisations into environmental advocacy.



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Environmental Legal Advocacy and Advisory Centers (ELAACs) for South Eastern Europe, REReP 2.6

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 500,000

Implemented by REC SCG
7%

Beneficiary
NGO community, environmental lawyers

Origin of funding
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dates (start/end)
June 2001
to April 2004

Objectives

- To increase the capacities of non-governmental actors in highly centralised societies by supporting the development of independent environmental lawyers and assisting them in providing high-quality legal services to the public;
- To increase respect for civil society and pluralistic solutions to problems by demonstrating results in concrete environmental cases;
- To take advantage of existing regional (CEE/NIS) initiatives in support of independent environmental legal advocacy/advisory centres so as to focus resources on an area of civil society institution building that will have greater chances of success;
- To solve concrete environmental problems applying international environmental legal principles, including the polluter pays principle and the principle of public participation;
- To extend the standardisation and institutionalisation of access to information and participatory rights and procedures backed up by the rule of law to the SEE subregion.

Background

The countries of SEE presented institutional strengthening and policy development as their first priority towards the environmental reconstruction of their countries in the ministerial meeting in Skopje, FYR Macedonia, on January 26-27, 2000. Development of civil society was presented as the second priority. Subsequently, at least two SEE countries - Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania - have included "environmental legal advocacy/advisory centres" among priority projects for their countries. This proposal is based on further discussions with the lead countries and a developed understanding of the benefits of promoting such new institutions to help solve environmental problems through civil society actors working in the context of the rule of law.

These developments coincide with progress on the regional (CEE/NIS) level in development of similar institutions. Similar centres have been formed in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Armenia and Moldova, linked by a regional network and various international initiatives. These centres have developed in various ways, sometimes through fundamental grassroots activities, other times with strong international partnerships and support. The number and variety of environmental public advocacy centres in CEE/NIS has reached a critical level at the same time as the region of SEE is opening up to international contacts and exchanges. Whereas previous such efforts had only western models to look to, interested SEE lawyers now have experiences from neighbouring countries in transition to draw from.

Activities

- Establishing the Environmental Advocacy Network for South Eastern Europe (EANSEE);
- Preparation of an assessment phase report;

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- Establishing partnership agreements (MOUs) with civil society organisations, meeting specified standards;
- Training and network activities;
- Granting component.

Country-specific results

- Representatives from Serbia and Montenegro joined the Environmental Advocacy Network for South Eastern Europe (EANSEE), consisting of 45 environmental independent lawyers from all the beneficiary countries with a strong interest and commitment to public interest environmental law.
- Representatives from Serbia and Montenegro participated in six regional EANSEE meetings/workshops, designed as a forum for network cooperation and for capacity building exercises on specific environmental public interest law topics and the development of practical skills (project preparation, organisational management organisation, strategic planning, fundraising, etc.).
- National grants were provided for supporting project activities and technical assistance to organisations in Serbia and Montenegro.

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Environmental Assessment

Profile

This topic aims to enhance the integration of environmental issues into decision making by extending the use of environmental assessment in the key topic areas: EIA and SEA, supporting reforms that improve transparency, increasing accountability and effectiveness in environmental decision making and searching for locally appropriate procedures and practices of environmental assessment.The REC has developed a unique approach to SEA, presented in the SEA Training Manual and applied within pilot projects. This approach raises wide interest, especially because of its user-friendliness and applicability within various institutional contexts (e.g. even outside of Europe). In the areas of EIA, the REC's EIA Training Resource Manual for SEE has been developed, which is the first manual that brings together the EIA requirements of key donors.



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Capacity Building for Environmental Impact Assessment, REReP 1.4

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE Countries

Project Budget
EUR 300,000

Implemented by REC SCG
12%

Beneficiary
Central and local governments

Origin of funding
EC EuropAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6

Dates (start/end)
August 2002 to August 2003

Objectives

The project addressed an urgent need for development of basic EIA know-how in South Eastern European countries. The project facilitated:

- Regular meetings of the working group of senior EIA officials in the SEE region;
- Elaboration of the environmental assessment guidelines for SEE;
- Development of the Regional Environmental Assessment Training Manual for SEE;
- Implementation of train the trainers workshops;
- Organisation of high level EIA meetings and EIA practitioners workshops/trainings in each beneficiary country;
- Small scale ad hoc EIA consultancy support to respond to the priorities of the beneficiary country.

Background

REReP's regional project Capacity Building for Environmental Assessment in SEE (REReP 1.4) was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration), and its initiation correlated with the beginning of major reforms of institutional and legal systems for EIA in SEE countries. While reforms varied in their details, the common feature was the serious attention given to several international points of reference for the development of EIA systems in the region. The immediate priority of all project countries was to achieve full compliance with the EC EIA Directive. Their common long-term objective was to ratify or accede to the UNECE ESPOO Convention and UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). Some elements of reforms (e.g. scoping) were partly influenced by EIA procedures of two major international lenders, the World Bank and EBRD.

Building on these developments, REReP 1.4 focused on training for the practical implementation of proposed EIA legal reforms. Specifically, the training resource manual focuses on the development of EIA process-management skills (e.g. EIA project management, conduct of screening, scoping or review) where skills were acknowledged to be relatively weak. For example, in a number of SEE countries, the decision makers remarked that they would need more information and practical training on existing review systems of an EIA report. By contrast, knowledge of technical aspects of EIA (e.g. impact identification and mitigation) is much stronger in SEE countries.

The most important features of the entire project were the working exchanges and levels of cooperation among the participants from different countries. Representatives of national environmental authorities took part in all stages of project implementation from agenda setting to evaluation, and there was a considerable level of mutual assistance, support and cooperation among EIA trainers from various countries. This is the most impressive legacy of the

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project: it may also be the most enduring.

Activities

- EIA Guidelines for SEE accompanied with EIA/SEA Overview in SEE;
- Country-specific EIA training manuals for beneficiary countries;
- Two train the trainer workshops;
- Six high level EIA meetings;
- Six EIA practitioners workshops.

Country-specific results

- Comparative analysis developed of EIA requirements of European Community, EBRD, World Bank, ESPOO Convention and Aarhus Convention applying to SEE Countries;
- Development of the CD ROM Making an Impact, EIA Resource Collection (550 copies), also available on the Internet;
- Regional training for trainers in Albania: representatives of competent ministries from Serbia and Montenegro involved;
- Current Reforms of EIA/SEA Systems in South Eastern Europe available on the Internet (case of Serbia and Montenegro included);
- High level training for officials in Serbia and Montenegro with 60 participants conducted;
- EIA Training Resource Manual for South Eastern Europe produced, available on the Internet and in hard copy;
- Workshop on Introduction to Strategic Environmental Assessment conducted with 35 participants from Serbia and Montenegro.

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Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Profile

The REC supports the development, acceptance, application and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as an important means for states to build international consensus and to make commitments for joint action to address complex environmental problems. MEAs are part of a complex web including EU and national legislation that create a binding legal framework for environmental protection. The REC has been directly involved and contributed significantly to the drafting and development of many MEAs with relevance to the region. It supports the acceptance of, compliance with, and implementation of MEAs in cooperation with other international organisations through legal analyses and research, legislative assessments, targeted drafting assistance, implementation guides, case studies, networking, and capacity-building workshops. The REC has produced several important publications and official documents in this field.



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AIMS - Support for Ratification and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, REReP 1.12

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 471,450

Implemented by REC SCG
12%

Beneficiary
SEE central government officials

Origin of funding
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dates (start/end)
April 2001
to December 2003

Objectives

The project's main objective was to promote the applicability of relevant MEAs in the SEE countries, both regionally and on a country-by-country basis, through a series of activities targeted at authorities and expert communities.

Background

MEAs are one of the main means for the fixing of international environmental norms into binding rules. International agreements provide a means for increasing uniformity of the application of norms, as well as increasing dialogue among states. The countries of South Eastern Europe have a relatively low rate of accession to MEAs and face obstacles in implementation due to reduced resources and fundamental restructuring of authorities and enforcement mechanisms.

The countries of SEE presented institutional strengthening and policy development as their first priority for environmental reconstruction of their countries in the ministerial meeting in Skopje, FYR Macedonia, on January 26-27, 2000. It is also one of the key elements of the "institutional and policy development" programme component of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program proposed by the European Commission DG-Environment. Assistance to SEE governments in making use of available international environmental legal instruments, with particular accent on those related to biodiversity, and in broadening, deepening and strengthening the implementation of MEAs, were identified as main activities in this area.

Activities

- Country assessments - Legal experts from each country assessed the level of acceptance and implementation of MEAs;
- National priorities - Ministries established a multi-stakeholder National Advisory Committee, which reviewed the country assessment and set priorities;
- Concrete activities in each country were planned on the basis of the final assessment and priorities;
- Regional activities based on common goals;
- Regional assessment on MEA applicability and implementation in SEE.

Country-specific results

- Representatives from Serbia and Montenegro joined the AIMS Network: a Joint Network of Senior Officials and Legal Experts;
- Seven country assessments on acceptance and implementation of MEAs were posted on the REC website, Serbia and Montenegro among them;
- Representatives from Serbia and Montenegro participated in targeted regional workshops on the Basel Convention and selected ECE conventions;
- Eight national/entity level (two for Serbia and Montenegro) capacity-building workshops on priority MEAs and MEA issues;
- A national workshop on the implementation of the Rotterdam Con-

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vention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (March 8-9, 2004, Palic, Republic of Serbia);

- Training workshop on the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the context of the Basel Convention (March 26-27, 2004, Prcanj, Republic of Montenegro);
- Regional Report on MEA applicability and implementation in SEE;
- AIMS website (www.rec.org/REC/Programs/REReP/AIMS/);
- REC SCG published an assessment of MEAs in Serbia and Montenegro in 500 copies.

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Assistance to Comply With the UNFCC /Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol

Profile

The overall objective of the topic is to assist countries in CEE in reforming their policies and institutions to comply with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP).

This can be achieved through capacity building and improving the quality of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, by helping CEE countries in developing national strategies to respond to climate change issues, by helping them to fulfil the requirements needed to participate in the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), and project-based GHG emissions reduction transfer mechanisms, i.e. Joint Implementation (JI) and Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM).



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Capacity to Develop National GHG Inventories in Serbia and Montenegro

Scope
National

Countries
Serbia and Montenegro

Project Budget
EUR 5,000

Beneficiary
Central government and other competent institutions

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund (JSF)

Dates (start/end)
October 2003 to April 2004

Objectives

The main objective of the project was to assess the capacity of Serbia and Montenegro to prepare the national inventories of GHGs and report it in line with Article 4 (Commitments) and Article 12 (Communication and information related to implementation) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and disseminate the information in the country.

The focus of the survey is on national systems requirements for emission inventories and covers the capacity to estimate and report greenhouse gas emissions (CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs, SF) from all sources.

Background

This survey is part of the REC's programme Capacity for Climate Protection in Central and Eastern European Countries, with the objective to assess the capacity of some CEE countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy to meet the requirements of the UNFCCC.

Serbia and Montenegro has ratified the UNFCCC in March 2001, and is fully committed to meeting the requirements. As non-annex I developing country, Serbia and Montenegro needs to do substantial work in the area of climate change. Existing capacities are estimated on a very low level. The so-far activities related to climate change are rather fragmented and unsystematic, development of a National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and the preparation of the National Communication is of the utmost importance as a basis for compliance.

Activities

An assessment of the current status of legal, policy and institutional frameworks related to climate change issues was undertaken on the national level according proposed methodology through surveys and interviews with responsible institutions in this sector. A country meeting for relevant stakeholders for dissemination of collected information was organised, with the scope to identify capacity needs and requirements in Serbia and Montenegro in this sector.

Country-specific results

- Round table organised for decision makers and representatives of relevant organisations and institutions in this sector in Serbia and Montenegro, including representatives of the industry. The priorities were discussed and capacity needs were identified in this sector among the participants;
- Facilitated dialogue of stakeholders on issues related to climate change and UNFCCC requirements and increased public awareness;
- Support of the development of institutional capacities;
- Environmental information dissemination.

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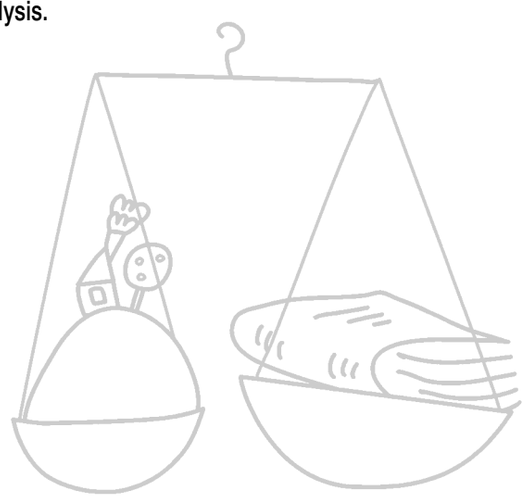
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Sustainable Transport

Profile

The topic supports capacity building of CEE local authorities and practitioners in integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies. The activities in 2005 cover mainly the transport and agriculture. It also covers the REC work under the UNEP Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. The work in support of sustainable transport could be summarised as follows:

- Promotion of best practices in integration of environmental concerns into transport policy making and implementation (within available legal and institutional measures), e.g. integrated urban planning to reduce the number of car trips in favour of public transport, railways, cycling and walking.
- Use of available information technology tools for efficient urban transport planning and management.
- Capacity building in use of economic tools, fiscal measures, other financial and legal measures to finance sustainable transport, e.g. state subsidies, environmental funds, international financial institutions, private sources and private-public partnerships, Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund provided for regional development under EU Cohesion Policy.
- Exchanges and best practices preparation and dissemination on sustainable transport promotion (on available legal and institutional measures). Creation and support of an interdisciplinary network of CEE local stakeholders dealing with sustainable transport.
- Maintenance of the electronic library of sources relevant to sectoral integration, sustainable transport and sustainable development.
- Stock taking and identification of priority needs in the integration of environmental concerns into the SEE transport and agriculture sector policies.
- Preparation of reports on sustainable transport policy analysis.



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Promoting Integration of Environmental Concerns into Sectoral Policies in SEE, REReP 1.30

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries and territories

Project Budget
EUR 62,744

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Representatives of ministries of environment, transport, agriculture, public transport operators and authorities, NGOs

Origin of funding
Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Dates (start/end)
2002 - 2004 (extension to March 2005)

Objectives

The project aims to assist the SEE countries in integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies on the example of urban transport and agriculture as well as in addressing the environmental challenges in these two sectors. The project will promote the inter-ministerial and intergovernmental cooperation in SEE and the development of joint strategies, policies and action plans.

The integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, which is a key factor for achieving better quality of the environment, has not been covered by REReP so far. Given the accelerated economic development in SEE it is crucial to address these issues as early as possible in order to avoid a situation when the environmental concerns have been neglected and later at high costs have to be restored damages.

Background

The main purpose of the project is to assist SEE countries in defining their priorities and needs in the field of urban transport and agriculture and agree on common actions to address the environmental problems in these two sectors. The project will also contribute to exchange of experience among the countries and establishing of a better inter-ministerial and intergovernmental cooperation in urban transport and agricultural sectors in the SEE region.

The sectoral integration is widely recognised as a problem of pan-European and global importance. Nearly all ministerial declarations adopted at environmental conferences during the last years call for integration of environmental aspects into transport and agricultural policies, e.g. "Environment for Europe" process, high level meetings on transport, environment and health, etc.

Specifically in SEE the urban transport is under rapid development. There are no urban transport strategies developed. The problems are dealt with on a case by case basis. The population in the urban areas is exposed to growing pollution and health hazards. The number of private cars is increasing leading to congestion, pollution and other problems.

Nearly no environmental policies are taken into consideration in the development of the agricultural sector. There is no system for protection of the sensitive areas, which are zones of valuable biodiversity. The problems are aggravated by the uncontrolled use of pesticides and fertilisers.

The ministries of environment, transport and agriculture do not have well established procedures for consultation and joint decision making. There are no sectoral strategies and policies taking into account properly the environmental protection requirements.

Against this background the project will contribute to assessing the priority problems and needs and assist the SEE countries in identifying urgent measures to be taken on regional level to address the environmental challenges from the urban transport and agriculture.

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Activities

The project will achieve its objectives through implementation of two tasks:

Task 1. Meeting of high officials on urban transport and environment

The meeting will bring together officials from the ministries of transport, ministries of environment, public transport companies and municipalities from the capitals of the SEE countries. Representatives of international organisations and institutions active in the urban transport in SEE will also be invited in order to coordinate and complement the assistance activities. The priority problems and needs will be assessed on SEE regional level and agreement reached how best to address them.

Task 2. Meeting of high officials on agriculture and environment

The preparation and organisation of the meeting will follow the same methodology as described above for the urban transport.

Results

- Regional meeting of SEE Senior Official on Urban Transport and Environment Concerns' Integration in Policy Making and Implementation organised in Zagreb in November 2004. Representatives of competent authorities and institutions from Serbia and Montenegro participated.
- Analysis of the situation in Serbia and Montenegro prepared and represented, and the conclusions included in the regional assessment.

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Water Monitoring Strategy

Profile

Increased use of water resources for different purposes in the past several decades has significantly deteriorated equilibrium in water ecosystems. Also decreased carrying capacity of water resources are of high importance for various human activities. Good environmental monitoring is the key tool that provides us with the ability to effectively manage a response to those diverse environmental challenges which significantly endanger water resources.

Environmental monitoring involves the systematic collection and evaluation of data about the chemical, physical, and biological quality of the environment and how external changes exerted both naturally and anthropogenically affect that quality. The pace of the latter has greatly accelerated during the Twentieth century on local, regional, and even global scales.

However, the mere recognition and cataloguing of such changes is insufficient for developing strategies to abate and manage harmful activities.

In developing National Water Monitoring Strategy REC SCG used a mixture of approaches to provide for the design, collection, measurement, storage, retrieval, assessment, and biological/ecological data necessary to efficiently and effectively meet the objectives for sustainable and integrated river basin water management.

The Strategy determined status and trends, identified causes and sources of impairment and threats ranked by priority, envisaged design and implementation of water quality management programmes, determined programme evaluation mechanisms and response to emergencies.



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NAWAMS - National Water Monitoring Strategy

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project Budget
EUR 50,000

Beneficiary
Central government

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund (JSF)

Dates (start/end)
December 2002 to March 2003

Objectives

The overall objective of National Water Monitoring Strategy was to develop and implement a surface-water monitoring strategy to help achieve the goals and objectives of the Law on Waters - both the present one and one currently being drafted.

The goal of designing the Strategy was to provide background information for effective and sustainable water resource policymaking and management, meaning that monitoring information should not only be available to managers and policy-makers, but be sufficiently comprehensible and conclusive.

Background

Serbia and Montenegro's water monitoring system is not integrated, and is conducted with obsolete equipment and staff that is not fully trained.

Monitoring programmes are not fully harmonised with relevant international standards.

Methods suggested for overcoming these problems are:

- Design of an integrated monitoring system;
- Staff training;
- Harmonisation of relevant programmes with EU standards.

Activities

The project dealt with development of the National Water Monitoring Strategy, using a mixture of approaches to provide a Strategy for Sustainable and Integrated River Basin Water Management. The Strategy was followed by development of a National Action Plan for Water Monitoring in order to make the list of priorities and develop a clear action plan for forthcoming activities. A workshop with international experts was organised to disseminate and discuss the results among staff of national water monitoring organisations and institutions from Serbia and Montenegro, state institutions responsible for monitoring, representatives of local authorities, expert organisations and NGOs.

Country-specific results

- Facilitated stakeholder dialogue on issues related to integrated water basin management and increased public awareness;
- Developed National Water Monitoring Strategy (published in hard copy and as a CD);
- Developed National Water Monitoring Action Plan with a list of priorities for forthcoming activities;
- International workshop for decision makers and representatives of national water monitoring organisations and institutions from Serbia and Montenegro, state institutions responsible for monitoring, representatives of local authorities, expert organisations and NGOs;
- Web page providing relevant information on the project and its results.

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Legal, Institutional and Policy Audits/Assessments

Profile

The REC has developed a methodology for assessing legislative, policy and institutional frameworks at the national level with respect to sustainable development obligations or principles. The pilot project for development of the "diagnostic audit" was the second stage of the Tisza River Basin Sustainable Development Programme. With the financial and technical support of UNDP, the REC project team performed a diagnostic audit for five Tisza countries using sustainable water management principles as a reference point. This topic area is a cross-programme topic area with the participation of various experts and programmes within the organisation. During 2005 the diagnostic audit methodology will be applied for seven countries that are signatories to the Carpathians Convention in order to evaluate their preparedness to meet Convention obligations from a legal, policy and institutional perspectives.



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Diagnostic Audit - Tisza River Basin Assessment of Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks Related to Sustainable Water Management in Five Tisza Riparian Countries

Scope
Regional

Countries
Tisza Basin Countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Ukraine

Project Budget
EUR 80,000

Beneficiary
Tisza River Basin region

Origin of funding
UNDP Slovakia

Dates (start/end)
August 2003 to August 2004

Objectives

- To provide an assessment of current legal, policy and institutional frameworks related to sustainable water management in five Tisza riparian countries;
- To provide a comparative study of differences and similarities and identify barriers towards effective cooperation among countries;
- To propose recommendations for improving regional cooperation in water management in the Tisza River Basin (TRB) and for steps to address these issues in the future.

Background

In recent years the Tisza River Basin has come to the forefront of international attention due to a sequence of major flood events and environmental disasters, with the Baia Mare cyanide spill leading the headlines. The Tisza, together with its tributaries, drains the largest catchment area in the Carpathian Mountains before flowing through the Eastern Pannonian Plain and joining the Danube. The river and its catchments are shared by five countries: Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro.

The countries and regions in the Tisza River Basin share a common recent history of communist-controlled systems and the transition towards democracy and a market economy in the last decade. This history has left the river basin with a mixed legacy of pollution hotspots, declining heavy industry, lack of economic development, an emerging pattern of regular flooding and fertile ground for social and ethnic tensions. On the other hand, there are well-preserved traditional rural landscapes, vast complexes of natural forests and viable populations of species that are no longer present in Western Europe.

A number of donors and international organisations have expressed interest in helping solve the environmental, social and environment problems along the Tisz a.
Two of the five countries in the river basin have recently joined the European Union, which presents a major opportunity and driving force for changing the development patterns in the region. The bordering regions of the neighbouring countries will also benefit from EU cross-border cooperation programmes in the future. The Global Environment Facility has recently opened the Operational Programme for Integrated Ecosystem Management Projects, providing a comprehensive framework to manage natural systems across sectors, and political or administrative boundaries in the context of sustainable development.

Activities

1. National assessments

In each country, independent experts prepared the national assessments that were reviewed by the REC project team. Final versions of these national assessments have been pre-

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pared, based on comments submitted by the stakeholders in each country and a second set of comments formulated by the REC project team.

2. Regional assessment

The REC project team reviewed the five national assessments and, based upon the information contained there, drafted the policy, legal, and institutional assessments as part of the final regional assessment report.

The REC held meetings in each of the five TRB countries for national and local stakeholders to review the national assessments and the draft regional assessment.

The final version of the regional assessment was edited and delivered to the UNDP on June 30, 2004.

The main topics of discussion during the stakeholder meetings in each country were:

- Draft national assessment;
- Draft regional assessment, focusing on the policy, legal, institutional and financial aspects;
- Obstacles for transboundary cooperation;
- Public interest and involvement in water management issues.

One of the key conclusions of the meetings in each country was the need for transboundary cooperation and enhanced assistance to countries for sustainable water management in the Tisza River Basin.

Country-specific results

- Facilitated stakeholder dialogue on issues related to water management in the Tisza River Basin and enhanced awareness of the need for transboundary and cross-border cooperation;
- Comprehensive overview of the current status of policy, legal and institutional frameworks for water management in Serbia and other Tisza River Basin countries;
- Quality regional assessment of sustainable water management in the TRB compiled, providing a set of comprehensive recommendations for enhancing transboundary cooperation among TRB countries;
- Maintained a network of TRB stakeholders built during the 'initiation phase' of the Tisza River Basin Sustainable Development Programme.

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Supporting the Carpathian Convention - Diagnostic Audit and Guide to Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Scope
Regional

Countries
Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro

Project Budget
EUR 119,000

Implemented by REC SCG
7%

Beneficiary
Carpathian countries

Origin of funding
Italian Trust Fund

Dates (start/end)
March 2003
to March 2006

Objectives

- To support streamlining of efforts for implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
- To facilitate implementation of the Convention at a local level;
- To conduct a diagnostic audit of the policy to ensure that institutional and legislative set-up exists in Carpathian countries relative to those principles promoted and commitments undertaken under the Carpathian Convention. Main findings of the diagnostic audit shall be reflected in the Carpathian Environmental Outlook, to be produced by UNEP;
- To support immediate implementation of the Carpathian Convention through a Guide to Implementation for local authorities.

Background

The Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) is a major tool for protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains region, as well as being sub-regional example of implementation of a cooperative partnership for the protection and sustainable development of mountain areas, developed during the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Mountain Summit in 2002.

The adoption of the Convention during the Kiev Conference triggered the obligation of the signatories to enhance efforts to achieve sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains through a wide range of sector-related activities, such as biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, water management, energy and transport. In collaboration with UNEP and the Ministry of Environment and Territory of Italy, the REC has identified two areas where its experience and expertise can assist Carpathian countries in meeting their goals. These areas are the Diagnostic Audit and Implementation Guide.

Activities

- Developing country assessments on policy, and institutional and legislative frameworks relevant to the Convention;
- Implementation Guide for the Convention.

Country-specific results

- Country-by-country diagnostic audit of the policy, institutional and legislative frameworks relevant to the Convention in English and national languages;
- Minimum 50-page Implementation Guide, available in electronic (PDF) format on the Internet;
- Active involvement of stakeholders in preparation of the guide;
- Increased stakeholder awareness at national/local levels of requirements and means for implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

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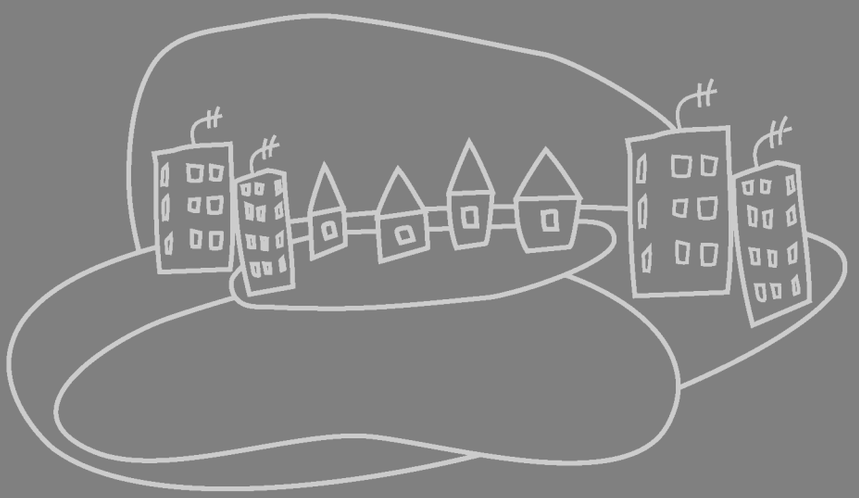
V. INTERNATIONAL MANDATES OF REC/ INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATS

Profile

REC coordinates and contributes to the implementation of international mandates as secretariat of the sub-programme for CEE of the Task Force for Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force) and as the Secretariat of the Task Force for Implementation of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP) under the Stability Pact.

In parallel to these earlier, ongoing regional assignments, last year the REC became the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Regional Secretariat for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). The REC also joined the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership and has the potential to become a regional focal point.

In 2005 the REC will continue to provide secretariat support to REReP and BERCEN. The activities will be based on the progress achieved in the SAP, and the recommendations and decisions made at the REReP Task Force and BERCEN plenary meetings. The REC will implement the agreed work within REEEP and the Interim Sava Commission and will contribute to the exchange of information and experience, and to multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation in both international processes. Secretariat support provided to national authorities upon request also falls under this category.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

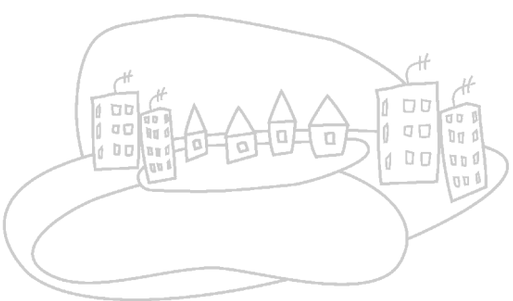
- **Support of Activities of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South Eastern Europe (REReP), REReP 1.1 Task Force Secretariat**
- **Secretariat Support - CARDS, REReP 1.1.2.**
- **Strengthening Environmental Implementation and Enforcement in SEE Countries Forming Part of the Stabilisation and Association Process. Support for Activities of the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN)**
- **Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in SEE, Strengthening the Capacities of the National Environmental Protection Agencies in SEE by Comparing the Rates of Compliance, Scheduling Training and Providing Supplies, REREP 1.7.1**
- **Strengthening the Environmental Implementation and Enforcement in the SEE Countries Forming Part of the Stabilisation and Association Process. Support for Activities of the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN)**
- **Sava Commission Secretariat - Legal and Stakeholder Support**
- **Sava River Basin - Support to Public Participation**
- **Support to the International Sava Basin Commission Initiative**

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Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South Eastern Europe (REReP)

Profile

The REReP is an initiative under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe that was shaped by the countries of the region themselves, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration). A task force comprising the ministers of environment for the countries of SEE, donors, international organisations, institutions and NGOs, guides its implementation. The REC for CEE has a mandate as Secretariat of REReP. The REReP is linked to the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) launched by the EU in 1999. The SAP is a process intended to lead to EU membership once the Copenhagen criteria are met - a prospect that is today a main motivator for reform in the region. At start-up, REReP aimed to provide a mechanism for bringing environmental thinking into reconstruction activities underway in SEE, and for assisting countries where formal cooperation agreements were not yet in place. It was also viewed as an opportunity to get the countries to talk to each other again and to develop structures of regional cooperation. The first Stabilisation and Association Agreements added the objective of building capacity and legal frameworks for eventual EU membership. At a meeting in Skopje in October 2003, the ministers of environment of the five West Balkan countries affirmed the importance of regional cooperation through REReP.REReP succeeded in bringing in speedy funding for rebuilding environmental management capacity in the Western Balkans. REReP's coordinating mechanism enabled donors to begin financing projects in the region much earlier than would otherwise have been possible, and led to increased attention by IFIs to environmental investment projects in SEE. The REReP's most significant impact to date is the process of reconciliation and cooperation that has been launched among the environmental officials from countries that were recently in conflict, in some cases for the first time. It has also helped to rebuild the environmental management structures of the region, re-establish former lines of communication, and initiate formal and informal regional coordination mechanisms among the region's environmental NGOs.In 2001, REReP modified its priorities to focus on the goal of EU integration. It currently has four components: (1) institution building; (2) support to environmental civil society; (3) support to environmental cooperation mechanisms and cross-border projects; and (4) reducing environmental health threats and loss of biodiversity.



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Support of Activities of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South Eastern Europe (REReP), REReP 1.1 Task Force Secretariat

Scope
Regional

Countries
All SEE Countries

Beneficiary
All SEE Countries

Origin of funding
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; EU DG Environment; Ministry of Environment, Italy; Federal Ministry of Environment, Germany

Project budget
EUR 547,000

Dates (start/end)
February 2000 to December 2002

Objectives

The long-term objectives of the project are to manage the Secretariat of the Task Force for the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program (REReP) in the framework of the SEE Stability Pact and to encourage long-term public participation in the regional initiative.

The Secretariat operates in line with the REReP Terms of Reference, contributing to the regional strategic approach within the Stabilisation and Association Process to the EU (SAP). Special effort is made for maintaining SEE ownership of the REReP process and for providing services addressing priority problems of the countries. The transfer of best practices and lessons learned from the new EU member states and candidate countries to SEE region will also continue.

Background

As agreed at the ministerial meeting in Skopje, FYR Macedonia (March 15-16, 2000), the REC serves as Secretariat of the REReP Task Force. Its responsibilities include:

- Preparation and organisation of Task Force meetings;
- Implementation of Task Force decisions between meetings;
- Assistance to SEE countries in formulating projects (to the level of project concept) and fundraising;
- Acting as the 'implementing agency' for specific projects in its area of expertise and/or in absence of other organisations;
- Facilitating communications between all REReP stakeholders by providing information on progress of activities;
- Facilitating donor coordination to avoid duplication or omission of activities;
- Assisting the Task Force in continued assessment of REReP priorities.

Activities

- Consolidation of the ongoing REReP initiative into a process that facilitates the achievements of the South Eastern European (SEE) Stability Pact;
- Encouraging stability in the SEE region through regional projects endorsed by countries in REReP, implemented through the Stability Pact Working Tables;
- Using regional cooperation in environmental policy planning as a mechanism for implementing the Stability Pact;
- Establishing a REReP Task Force within the framework of the Stability Pact;
- Preparing the REReP Action Plan and the relevant documents for the Ministerial Meeting of the SEE Environmental Ministers in March 2000;
- Assisting SEE countries in defining the REReP priorities for the Stability Pact Financial Conference;
- Maintaining and organising regular meetings of the REReP Task Force in 2000;

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- Ensuring public participation in, and raising public awareness of, the REReP process;
- Helping NGOs enter into dialogue with officials on issues related to REReP within the framework of the SEE Stability Pact;
- Assisting ministries of environment in setting up priorities while revisiting the National Environmental Action Plans in the framework of REReP;
- Continuing regular meetings of high officials from SEE ministries of environment related to REReP;
- Maintaining coordination of donors for REReP implementation;
- Assisting national and local authorities in the formulation of projects and preparation of investment proposals for improved emergency environmental performance.

Results

- Environmental policy/NEAP revisiting and implementation;
- REReP Task Force established; a long-term strategy for REReP for SEE;
- Three REReP Task Force Bureau meetings in 2000;
- High-level consultations between REReP for SEE experts;
- Report of the status of regional cooperation on REReP, and preparation of the work plan of the Secretariat for 2000;
- Presentation of results of REReP at the Pan-European Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2002;
- Involving and strengthening the NGO community in the REReP process.

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Secretariat Support - CARDS, REReP 1.1.2.

Scope
Regional

Countries
All SEE Countries

Beneficiary
All SEE Countries

Origin of funding
EC AuropaAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6

Project Budget
EUR 575,000

Dates (start/end)
November 2003 to October 2006

Objectives

Support and coordination of implementation of the REReP for SEE, taking into account country demands and strategic direction of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Background

The project in question insured continuation of support to activities of the REReP Secretariat.

Results

- 6th REReP Task Force meetings from 2003 to 2006.
- Successful operation of REReP will be promoted through country visits, reports, participation in project events and analysing projects results/products.
- Updated information on REReP projects results/products will be provided via electronic and traditional publishing and day-to-day communication with REReP stakeholders.
- Analytical framework for monitoring REReP results/products and lessons learned, and their promotion will be developed and implemented.
- Regional networking with REReP national focal points will be continued.
- REReP projects results/products and REReP mode of operation will be presented on an international forum.

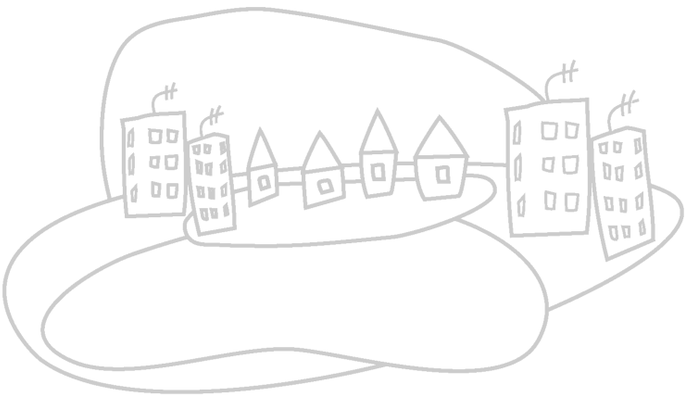
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Environmental Enforcement and Compliance (BERCEN)

Profile

This topic area focuses on improving enforcement and compliance of environmental legislation, which is a priority in both the EU and SAP countries. The REC has developed and is acting as the secretariat for the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN). Secretariat activities are based on the BERCEN network's Terms of Reference. The REC has developed a successful approach and methodology in providing assistance with environmental enforcement and compliance. The assistance is provided through BERCEN cluster projects, as well as through exchanges of experience on a global level and with EU member states that are part of the IMPEL network.



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Strengthening Environmental Implementation and Enforcement in SEE Countries Forming Part of the Stabilisation and Association Process. Support for Activities of the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN)

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 675,000

Implemented by REC SCG
8%

Beneficiary
SEE inspectorates

Origin of funding
EC CARDS

Dates (start/end)
September 2003 to September 2006

Objectives

Improvement of environmental implementation/compliance and enforcement in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro by supporting the operations of the BERCEN in South Eastern European (SEE) countries in meeting their obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Process, which is related to enforcement of environmental law; establishing a closer link to the IMPEL network, in line with BERCEN's long-term objective.

Background

BERCEN facilitates, assists and promotes the enforcement of regulations throughout SEE countries by disseminating information, finding common denominators for cooperation and developing projects of common interest with those countries participating in the network. BERCEN members work together to advance the application and implementation of environmental legislation and to increase the effectiveness of enforcement agencies and inspectorates.

BERCEN uses the experience of the IMPEL, INECE and Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) - previously known as the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (NISECEN, or NIS) - to provide a good strategic framework for future cooperation and exchange of information.

Activities

- Two study tours hosted by IMPEL member countries related to practical implementation and enforcement of key EU legal acts will be organised;
- Two exchange programmes will take place with participation of IMPEL members;
- Peer review assessments on enforcement capacity;
- Preparation of the First Reports on IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) implementation in BERCEN countries using the Questionnaire on the Implementation of the IPPC Directive adopted by European Commission Decision 1999/391/EC;
- Preparation of the First Report on the implementation of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 April 2001 Providing for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (2001/331/EC).

Country-specific results

- Two study tours to Poland and the Czech Republic organised involving representatives of the relevant institutions in Serbia and Montenegro;

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- Regional training and experience sharing on IPPC, involving participants from relevant institutions from Serbia and Montenegro.

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Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in SEE, Strengthening the Capacities of the National Environmental Protection Agencies in SEE by Comparing the Rates of Compliance, Scheduling Training and Providing Supplies, REREP 1.7.1

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 316,000

Implemented by REC SCG
8%

Beneficiary
SEE Inspectorates

Origin of funding
EC EuropAid Cooperation Office, Unit A6 (Obnova PHARE)

Dates (start/end)
August 2001 to August 2003

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to provide support to NEPAs for capacity building to improve their environmental regulatory compliance and enforcement mechanisms.

Background

The specific objectives of this project are as follows:

- To assist decision makers with improving compliance and enforcement at the national level;
- To improve the capacity of enforcement agencies and inspectorates;
- To transfer experience from enforcement agencies in the EU-member and EU-accession countries to SEE countries;
- To provide technical assistance to SEE governments for further development of environmental legislation and developing effective compliance and enforcement mechanisms.

Activities

- Development of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Training Curricula;
- Organisation of two BERCEN training programmes ("Train the Trainer") ;
- Organisation of national training workshops on selecting priorities and developing project proposals on environmental enforcement and compliance;
- Reporting to the first BERCEN plenary meeting;
- Procurement and disbursement of equipment (e.g. two vehicles for inspectorates in Serbia and Montenegro);
- Organisation of two study tours to IMPEL countries with advanced environmental enforcement system (Germany in March 2003, and Finland in May 2003);
- Publication: "BERCEN Training Manual for Environmental Inspectors."

Country-specific results

- Representatives of relevant institutions from Serbia and Montenegro participated in exchange programmes;
- Representatives of relevant institutions from Serbia and Montenegro trained at the two BERCEN "Train the Trainer" programmes;
- National training workshop organised in Obrenovac to provide skills to 30 local inspectors on issues relevant to the Minimum Criteria for Inspection;
- Representatives of relevant institutions from Serbia and Montenegro participated in two study tours to IMPEL countries with advanced environmental enforcement sys-

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tems (Germany in March 2003, and Finland in May 2003);

- Publication ("BERCEN Training Manual for Environmental Inspectors") in English language, available in hard copy and on the web.

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Strengthening the Environmental Implementation and Enforcement in the SEE Countries Forming Part of the Stabilisation and Association Process. Support for Activities of the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN)

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project budget
EUR 675,000

Implemented by REC SCG
8%

Beneficiary
SEE inspectorates

Origin of funding
EC CARDS

Dates (start/end)
September 2003 to September 2006

Objectives

Improvement of environmental implementation compliance and enforcement in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro by supporting operations of BERCEN Supporting of the South Eastern European (SEE) countries in meeting their obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Process related to enforcement of environmental law. Establishing a closer link to the IMPEL network, in line with BERCEN's long-term objective.

Background

BERCEN facilitates, assists and promotes the enforcement of regulations throughout SEE by disseminating information, finding common denominators for cooperation and developing projects of common interest with those countries participating in the network. BERCEN members work together to advance the application and implementation of environmental legislation and to increase the effectiveness of enforcement agencies and inspectorates.

BERCEN uses the experience of the IMPEL, INECE and Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) - previously known as the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (NISECEN, or NIS) - to provide a good strategic framework for future cooperation and exchange of information.

Activities

- Two study tours hosted by IMPEL member countries related to practical implementation and enforcement of key EU legal acts will be organised;
- Two exchange programmes will take place with the participation of IMPEL members;
- Peer Review Assessments on Enforcement Capacity;
- Preparation of the First Reports on IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) implementation in BERCEN countries using the Questionnaire on the Implementation of the IPPC Directive adopted by European Commission Decision 1999/391/EC;
- Preparation of the First Report on the implementation of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 4, 2001 Providing for Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (2001/331/EC).

Country-specific results

- Two study tours to Poland and the Czech Republic were organised involving representatives of the relevant institutions in Serbia and Montenegro;

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- Regional training and experience sharing on IPPC, involving participants from relevant institutions from Serbia and Montenegro.

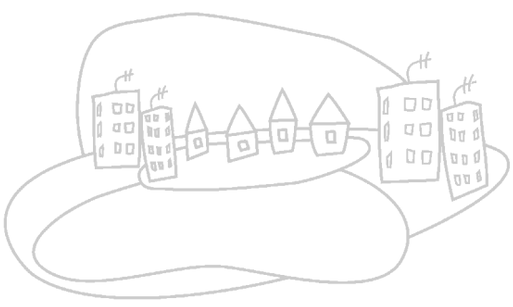
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Interim Commission for Sava River Basin

Profile

The Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, signed by the Sava countries on December 3, 2002 and currently with pending ratification, provides the principles and mechanism for regional cooperation. A central feature is the establishment of a new international body, the International Sava River Basin Commission, to implement the agreement within one year of the framework agreement entering into force. At the moment the coordination is implemented though an Interim Commission until ratification of the Framework Agreement will be accomplished by all countries.The REC acted as Secretariat during the negotiation of the Framework Agreement, providing key support in advising on legal matters and helping to develop concrete output, including the Interim Action Plan, and more recently has continued to support the work of the Interim Commission.The REC will continue to support the ongoing work of the Interim Sava Commission to implement the Framework Agreement and Interim Action Plan, both in the interim phase and after establishment of the permanent commission unless and until other institutions are established, including:

- Assisting in planning, coordinating and facilitating meetings of the commission and subsidiary bodies, including protocol working groups, ensuring distribution of documents, etc;
- Providing legal expert support to the commission in developing protocols, including production of first drafts, legal drafting on protocols under negotiation, and providing written research briefs upon request;
- Assisting the commission in developing constituent legal and organisational documents for its work, for example, drafting rules of procedure, staff terms of reference and regulations, seat agreement, etc. by evaluating recent state-of-the-art examples and tailoring them to meet the Commission's specific requirements;
- Providing logistic and organisational support to commission by REC Country Offices in the Sava countries;
- Providing a clearinghouse of information on the Sava initiative, and responding to inquiries about the Commission and the Sava process;
- Coordinating execution of the interim Action Plan and acting as a clearinghouse for relevant technical support, including assisting the commission in coordinating and monitoring activities in the plan and updating and expanding the plan as required;
- Developing and maintaining a Sava Basin Initiative website, to serve as a central means of communicating progress;
- Assisting the interim commission in developing an organisation plan for the permanent commission, including staffing, budgets, organisational charts/mission statements, etc.



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Sava Commission Secretariat - Legal and Stakeholder Support

Scope
Regional

Countries
Sava River Basin countries

Project budget
EUR 250,400

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Beneficiary
Sava River Basin countries

Origin of funding
US government

Dates (start/end)
December 2003, December 2004

Partners
Booz, Allen and Hamilton (BAH)

Objectives

- Support the International Sava Basin Commission through legal drafting and advice on a whole range of issues including rules of procedure, headquarters agreement, staff regulations, ratification, depositing of instruments, etc.;
- Support the drafting of protocols using available legal expertise;
- Enhance the capacity of the Commission to communicate with and to involve the public and stakeholders, including users of the river.

Background

With the support of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the four riparian states of the Sava River Basin - Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as "Sava countries") - have entered into a process of cooperation for the sustainable management of the water resources of the basin. The Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, signed by the Sava countries on December 3, 2002 and currently pending ratification provides the principles and mechanism for regional cooperation. A central feature is the establishment of a new international body, the International Sava River Basin Commission, to implement the agreement within one year of the framework agreement entering into force.

The Sava cooperation process is in its infancy. With the framework agreement freshly signed, there is much to be done, including completion of ratification of the agreement and launching of the Sava Commission. One of the most important steps is development of an Action Plan that provides a framework for identifying, prioritising, scheduling and managing activities and projects for executing the framework agreement. The Action Plan is intended to be the 'road map' for the Commission in elaborating priority activities and projects, and is expected to be a dynamic document that will evolve as the Commission and the cooperation process matures.

When the Commission is fully operational it will assume the responsibility for executing the plan and amending it as required. However, rather than waiting for all institutional mechanisms to be put into place, the Sava countries have demonstrated the priority that they place on the regional cooperation process by moving forward with development on an initial action plan focused on their most urgent needs. In early 2002 they established a Rehabilitation and Development (RD) Working Group to assume this task, consisting of representatives from the four countries. With support of the Stability Pact, the Working Group has developed this interim Action Plan. The plan concentrates on: 1) the highest priority regional activities and projects needed to begin the Sava cooperation process; and 2) activities and projects that can be initiated within the next one to two years due to their priority and level of development. While the plan is a 'work in progress,' it affords the international community a unique opportunity to participate with the Sava countries from the beginning in building a

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new and important regional process for sustainable development.

Activities

- Developing draft stakeholder strategy;
- Discussing and asking for feedback in stakeholder meetings at a national level;
- Capacity building workshops aimed at promoting efficient stakeholder involvement;
- Submitting a finalised strategy to the Sava Commission;
- Disseminating documents to key stakeholders.

Results

In 2004 the Draft Stakeholder Involvement Strategy has been prepared within the framework of the project "Sava Commission - Secretariat, Legal and Stakeholderž Support" funded by the US government and implemented in cooperation with Booz, Allen and Hamilton (BAH). One of the components of the project is aimed to assist the Sava Commission in developing and implementing a strategy to reach key stakeholder groups throughout the Sava River Basin. National roundtables were organised in Serbia, following the regional stakeholders meetings and aimed at finalising the strategy to be submitted to the Sava Commission for approval.

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Sava River Basin - Support to Public Participation

Scope
Regional

Countries
Sava River Basin countries

Project Budget
EUR 34,800

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Beneficiary
Sava River Basin countries

Origin of funding
USA EPA

Dates (start/end)
August 2003 to December 2003

Objectives

The general objective is to provide mechanism for wider information dissemination in order to point out properly all aspects of the Sava River Basin Sustainable development. In the process of setting up a sustainable River Basin Management Plan public participation counts for one of the priorities according to the Directive.

Background

Support to identified activities in the Sava process.

Activities

- Information dissemination;
- Dialogue facilitiation (close cooperation with different stakeholders and information dissemination);
- Development of a mechanism for wider information dissemination in order to point out properly all aspects of the Sava River Basin sustainable development;
- Organisation of National and Regional training seminars/workshops.

Country-specific results

- Organisation of National and Regional Workshops with the aim of wide information dissemination of different public stakeholders of the Sava River basin;
- Preparation of 'Sava Public Participation compiled material' and the list of partners in Sava process.

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Scope
Regional

Countries
Sava River Basin countries

Project Budget
EUR 24,759

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Beneficiary
Sava River Basin countries

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund

Dates (start/end)
December 2002 to March 2003

Support to the International Sava Basin Commission Initiative

Objectives

The main objective was to facilitate the cooperation among the parties till establishing of the Sava Commission and its permanent Secretary.

Background

This facilitation was realised by providing Secretariat's support to the Expert Working Groups developing protocols in accordance with Framework Agreement, and, in the later stage, implementation of the Action Plan. The Secretariat support, which consisted of a Senior Legal Advisor (REC HQ), Legal Advisor, an Environmental Specialist, Project Officer and an Administrator, was provided by REC Country Office Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additional support was provided by international and local experts on ad hoc basis, as requested

Activities

- Facilitating cooperation among the parties till establishing of the Sava Commission and it's permanent secretary;
- Providing technical, administrative and professional support to the Sava Initiative;
- Assistance in preparation of Draft Protocol on Environmental Protection and common methodology for preparation of Integrated Water Management Plan;
- Information collection and dissemination.

Results

As result of this phase of the Sava Initiative, two important documents were prepared:

- Draft Protocol on Environmental Protection;
- Common methodology for preparation of the Integrated Water Management Plan.

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VI. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT/ LOCAL INITIATIVES

Profile

The REC experience and expertise in implementation of the local environmental development/initiatives projects stems from ten years of environmental protection work in the CEE region. During this period REC managed to accumulate considerable expertise in LEAPs, environmental financing, municipal project management and project design and implementation. We cooperate with a broad network of top outside experts based in CEE and around the world, including a LEAP Practitioners Network.

Dedication to strong and responsible project management, cost control, contract compliance and the flexibility provide our beneficiaries with positive results.

REC provides technical assistance to selected communities throughout CEE in preparing Local Environmental Action Programmes (LEAPs) identifying, assessing and setting environmental priorities and actively engaging the public in the process. We host workshops to introduce community representatives to the principles and methodology of LEAP and experiences of other LEAP communities in the CEE region.

In coordination with the European Commission, we provide local and regional officials with teams of professionals who have experience in EU accession requirements to help them prepare for accession. Preparation activities include:

- Training that promotes the understanding of EU environmental legislation;
- Awareness-raising campaigns;
- Assistance in assessing specific, local-level requirements and gaps in compliance; and
- Assistance in preparing investment programmes for EU accession.

REC works with local authorities and guides them through the environmental investment project cycle by:

- Identifying projects based on LEAP or local strategy;
- Technically and financially preparing projects and working with consultants; and
- Facilitating contact between local authorities and potential funding sources and submitting projects for funding.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

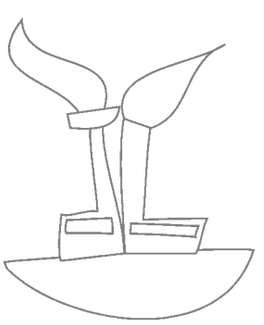
- **Cross-Border Municipal Cooperation: Drina River Basin, REReP, 4.3.27**
- **Development of Project Preparation Capacity for Environmental Investments, REReP 5.3**
- **Assisting Community Development in Three Municipalities of Serbia and Montenegro by Addressing Environmental Planning Issues**
- **Assisting Local Community Development by Addressing Environmental Problems (three individual projects)**

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Profile

The REC supports sustainability of environmental investments made at local and regional levels in CEE, SEE and Turkey, specifically targeting the use of public funds. The work is focused on several aspects of the environmental investment process, as it affects local and regional (and in some cases, national) actors:

- Integration of environment and sustainable development concepts as horizontal priorities in the planning and implementation of all public funds for regional and local development; e.g. the European Union cohesion policy (and its two instruments, the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund), including assessment of the funds' environmental effects;
- Promotion of and support for the use of public funds for investments in projects with environmental objectives through raising awareness and capacity of local and regional-level beneficiaries to identify, develop, and prepare environmental investment projects for funding;
- Use of environmental investment as the common denominator for enhanced stakeholder and/or cross-border cooperation, through assistance for preparation of priority environmental investment projects.In 2005 the REC will also continue working with local and regional authorities and their partners to support them in managing their responsibilities related to environmental protection. The activities will focus on three core areas at local and international levels:
- Integration of the 'environment and sustainability' concept into programming, and implementing Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund (international level);
- Capacity building to support sustainable environmental investment at local and regional levels (national level);
- Cooperative environmental investments in cross-border and/or multi-stakeholder contexts (international and national levels).



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Cross-Border Municipal Cooperation: Drina River Basin, REReP, 4.3.27

Scope
Regional

Countries
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project Budget
EUR 58,770

Implemented by REC SCG
40%

Beneficiary
Municipalities along the Drina River in Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Origin of funding
Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Dates (start/end)
June 2002 to April 2004

Objectives

The purpose of this project was to foster cooperation amongst the key stakeholders of the Drina River Basin from Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to solve a high-priority local environmental problem - namely, cleaning up Perucac Lake.

Background

The project was initiated by the Serbian municipality of Bajina Basta and Tara National Park in response to problems caused by the accumulation of solid waste flowing from the River Drina into the Lake Perucac. The REC helped project initiators to bring together the key stakeholders in order to jointly identify, design, prepare, and solicit external financing for a solution to the lake's solid waste problem. The purpose of this project was to identify, design, prepare and solicit external financing for a solution that will enable the communities located around the Drina River and Lake Perucac to remove solid waste that has collected on the lake's surface and to prevent further solid waste accumulation. The project was initiated by Mr. Reidar Malm, Director of Environmental Affairs at the County Governor of Aust-Agder in Norway, and Mr. Boban Tomic, the Mayor of Bajina Basta. A scoping trip to Bajina Basta was conducted in August 2002 by Mr. Malm, and Jennifer McGuinn and Jelena Kis from REC. During this trip a draft work plan was developed by Mr. Malm, REC, Mayor Tomic, and two representatives Director, Djuric and Deputy Mrs. Tomic from Tara National Park, which is responsible for part of Lake Perucac.

During the scoping trip, the parties discovered that any sustainable solution to remove waste from the lake, secure disposal, and prevention of future waste from collecting on the surface of the lake will require the participation of municipalities and other stakeholders located along the River Drina, which feeds into the lake. Many of these communities are located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both in the Federation and in Republika Srpska. While there was some degree of cooperation between the Serbian and Bosnian towns located on the lake, there was not sufficient communication or trust to enable them to jointly develop and implement a technical solution to solve the waste problem at the lake at the time. In fact, several conceptual technical solutions for the waste problem were previously developed in Bajina Basta. These solutions had different implications for different stakeholders, depending upon who collected, deposited or recycled the waste, and what could have been done to prevent further accumulations.

Activities

- Gathering information about solid waste management in the Drina River Basin; developing a solution to the problem, securing preliminary commitments from stakeholders;
- Organising a first Drina River stakeholder forum; reaching an initial agreement on a solution to the waste problem; creating a framework for further stakeholder dialog

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(establishment of institutional and NGO working groups);
- Conducting an assessment of technical, financial, economic, institutional and environmental aspects of the proposed solution; developing recommendations for the Drina stakeholders and preparing a detailed work plan for implementation of a feasible solution;
- Organising a second Drina River stakeholder forum; finalising an agreement on a solution to the waste problem.

Country-specific results

- Preparation of regional analyses of the waste problem;
- Relevant stakeholders identified and brought together;
- Definition of a feasible solution to the waste problem;
- Feasibility study of the solution completed;
- Drafting and finalisation of agreement between relevant parties to solve the problem;
- Agreement presented to possible donors and funding secured;
- Clean-up boat constructed, purchased and put in operation.

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Development of Project Preparation Capacity for Environmental Investments, REReP 5.3

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE Countries

Project Budget
EUR 262,400

Implemented by REC SCG
30%

Beneficiary
Central and local governments, the NGO community

Origin of funding
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Dates (start/end)
June 2000 to December 2003

Objectives

Four specific objectives of the project were identified:

- To improve the capacity of local governments to cooperate with local consulting firms to identify, prepare, and seek financing for their environmental investment needs;
- To improve the capacity of SEE consultants to prepare international-quality project documentation (targeted to the market for environmental financing in their country) for local environmental investment projects;
- To identify and prepare, using teams of trained local consultants, nine small to medium-size local environmental investments (EUR 500,000 to EUR 5 million) in two pilot SEE countries; and
- To gather and document lessons learned from the nine projects in two pilot countries and make them available to a wider audience of local governments, public utilities, consultants and donors in SEE.

Background

After more than a decade of political, administrative, and financial decentralisation of authority in the countries of South Eastern Europe, the primary responsibility for preparing, implementing and maintaining environmental investment projects now belongs to local governments - mostly municipalities. The project titled Development of Project Preparation Capacity for Environmental Investment was developed as part of the initial Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP) "Quick Start" package. It addressed the problem that governments and other stakeholders in this region consistently cite as an obstacle to environmental improvement: the inability to attract and absorb environmental investment funds at the local level. Small and medium-size municipalities (in most SEE countries, all but the three largest cities) bear significant responsibility for environmental protection, primarily through the management of local infrastructure (solid waste collection and disposal systems, water supply, wastewater treatment and other functions).

Throughout the region, the municipalities that manage this infrastructure require expertise, training, and especially capital to upgrade, repair, and construct new systems. Some capital is available, but it often goes unused because local project proponents (a collective term for authorities, consultants, stakeholders and others interested in promoting a particular investment project) lack the capacity to identify, formulate and prepare sustainable, rational investment projects that meet the requirements of available financing sources. Moreover, even when financing is granted, poor project preparation can lead to a failed investment. Most local and regional authorities need the ability to identify and manage skilled external consultants who can assist with the preparation of environmental investment projects. These consultants must be able to reliably prepare investment projects in cooperation with local and regional authorities. In many cases the con-

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sulting company assumes responsibility for preparing investments on behalf of authorities, with limited assistance by the authority staff. The reality, therefore, is that the capacity of local and regional authorities to prepare environmental investment projects has depended heavily upon access to affordable and reliable expert consultants.

Activities

- Series of workshops in technical, financial, economic, social and institutional feasibility analysis, project management, development of financing applications for waste and solid waste projects for local governments and project development consultants;
- Analysis of project pipelines provided by national governments and a selection of projects for preparation;
- Five water/wastewater and four solid waste management projects prepared for financing;
  - five financing applications prepared for water/wastewater projects in Romania (PHARE, SAPARD);
  - four solid waste management projects prepared for the national government project pipeline to be submitted to IFIs;
- Final report detailing experience and lessons learned in environmental investment project preparation in the two pilot countries.

Country-specific results

Workshops for multi-stakeholder groups conducted, covering the following sessions:

- Project cycle management - an overview;
- Strategic considerations for municipal solid waste projects in Serbia;
- Project team;
- Logical framework approach (LFA);
- Introduction to the feasibility study;
- Feasibility study - technical analysis;
- Feasibility study - economic and financial analysis;
- Feasibility study - environmental impact assessment (EIA);
- Feasibility study - stakeholder and institutional analysis;
- Project implementation planning.

Following feasibility studies completed:

- Sustainable solid waste disposal in Kragujevac;
- Sustainable solid waste disposal in Krusevac;
- Landfill upgrade in Nis;
- Sustainable solid waste management in Svilajnac.

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LEAP Development and Implementation

Profile

The development and implementation of LEAP aims at strengthening the ability of local government units, the business sector and community NGOs to address and manage environmental problems, as well to locate financial support for such programmes. This process also increases the capacity of local government units for medium and long-term financial planning and budgeting, and deals with improving the entire state of environment in local communities by applying specific and cost-effective environmental management strategies. It is cross-sectorial and ensures equal representation of all social and gender groups.



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Assisting Community Development in Three Municipalities of Serbia and Montenegro by Addressing Environmental Planning Issues

Scope
National/regional (similar components implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR Macedonia)

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project Budget
EUR 670,000

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Local communities in Serbia

Origin of funding
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Dates (start/end)
April 2004 to October 2006

Objective

The project will assist three municipalities in Serbia and Montenegro to develop Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) and provide financial assistance to implement selected priority actions and pilot projects.

The following project goals are of special relevance:

- Capacity building of local stakeholders for the advancement of efficiency and quality of environmental decision making, as well as taking gender-equality principles into account;
- Training of relevant stakeholders for direct participation in the design and implementation of LEAPs in local communities;
- Promoting activities and informing the public of the importance of coordinated action needed to address major environmental problems through local action plans;
- Promoting positive practices for the design and implementation of LEAPs;
- Strengthening the role of NGOs as important partners in community planning, problem solving and the decision-making processes;
- Directly informing municipalities of the LEAP process and scanning local interest in designing and conducting LEAPs in communities;
- Implementing high-priority local environmental projects.

The project entails an important component of regional cooperation that will enable local LEAP practitioners to share views and experiences with counterparts in the West Balkan countries.

Background

A number of review documents that have been recently drafted both by the Government of Serbia and international organisations (UNDP, World Bank, UN ECE) clearly state the need to mobilise local communities for combating environmental problems. Methods addressed in these documents are mainly focused on providing incentives for communities to enhance public participation in environmental decision making in order to meet goals of both a broader (reaching sustainability) and more concrete nature (addressing day-to-day environmental problems).

December 2001's EU Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (as with other comprehensive documents of this type) identifies environment (together with energy, transport and economic development) as one of four components of "economic recovery, regeneration and reform" and highlights the need for:

"...strengthening the municipal institutions responsible for environmental protection, including managing solid waste and wastewater."

This project takes the next step toward facilitating completion of Local Environmental Action Plans in selected municipalities and provides assistance in implementing priority projects. Developing LEAPs will also support processes of decentrali-

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sation in the country, as strongly decentralised governance systems rely on sustainable development of local communities. Done correctly, decentralisation can promote more accountable and representative local government, can facilitate civil society participation in environmental decision making, and better match public services with local environmental needs.

Activities

- To initiate the process of preparation of LEAP in WB countries through mobilisation of relevant local stakeholders to take an active part, and thus contribute to the democratic process of decentralisation,
- Capacity building of local stakeholders for advancement of efficiency and quality of environmental decision making - also taking gender equality principles into account;
- To create LEAPs for selected municipalities in all three countries, which will develop strategies and activities for decreasing of the environmental risks in these municipalities;
- Promotion of positive practices for implementation of LEAPs through the introduction of priority local environmental (pilot) projects;
- Providing regional exchanges between beneficiary local communities in the region. This also results in elevated motivation of local stakeholders to pursue with LEAP designs and, subsequently, implementation of priority actions.

Results

- Formulated policy and defined implementation process for beneficiary municipalities;
- Coupled environmental management initiatives at a regional level to efficiently address common environmental problems;
- Introduction of a democratic and transparent way of dealing with environmental issues in the region;
- Provided assistance for conducting priority environmental actions (tendering, implementation and monitoring).

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Assisting Local Community Development by Addressing Environmental Problems (three individual projects)

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro

Project Budget
EUR 50,000

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
Local communities in Serbia

Origin of funding
Royal Embassy of Netherlands in Serbia and Montenegro

Dates (start/end)
October 1999 to October 2002

Objective

- Capacity building for advancement of efficiency and quality of environmental decision making;
- Training of relevant stakeholders for direct participation in design and implementation of LEAPs in local communities;
- Promotion activities and informing the interested public about the importance of coordinated action needed to address major environmental problems through local action plans;
- Promotion of positive practices in the design and implementation of LEAPs;
- Strengthening the role of NGOs as important partners in community planning, problem solving and decision-making processes;
- Directly informing municipalities of LEAP process and scanning local interest for designing and conducting LEAPs in communities;
- Presentation of recent activities of relevance in Serbia and Montenegro.

Background

The aim of this project was to respond to the needs and interests of local communities to address environmental problems by initiating and making further steps toward implementation and design of Local Environmental Action Plan(s) for ten communities in Serbia and Montenegro.

Activities

Component 1. Training of trainers for LEAP

This project addresses the demands of future trainers in relation to activity-related and experience-oriented training, as well as developments taking place in this regard using interactive learning systems. The aim of this project component was to assist trainers and training instructors to cope with these demands and acquire the qualifications necessary to do so. In specialist and didactic-methodological terms, the courses were designed on the basis of a study of requirements concerning the development of skills using new learning technologies and an analysis of typical continued training programmes.

The skills in question, particularly in the context of training local stakeholders to start designing and implementing LEAPs, were provided through this project component to interested local representatives.

Component 2. LEAP seminars

According to results of the projects focused on promoting and implementing LEAPs in local communities conducted by the REC in Serbia and Montenegro (Yugoslavia) in 1999 and 2000, a large number of local communities were interested in designing and implementing LEAPs.

The project initiated the process of LEAP preparation through organising initial training seminars and made further steps toward implementation and development of LEAPs for beneficiary communities. The REC has insisted on the multi-

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stakeholder approach being essential for the LEAP process. Establishing regular channels for communication between authorities and NGO improved public participation, and is a crucial precondition for productive partnership of local stakeholders. A key role in this cooperation is given to local administration and community non-governmental- and other not-for profit organisations that are initiating and leading the process.

Component 3. Small grants scheme

The objective of this project component was to continue providing grant assistance to community-based non-governmental and other not-for profit organisations. The aim was to support activities that would promote and assist the process of starting LEAPs for beneficiary communities.

Results

- 10 LEAP training seminars conducted in 16 selected local communities;
- Seminar follow-up provided for local communities;
- Efficient dissemination of information on local planning and decentralisation;
- Several editions of the "Guide to Implementing LEAPs in CEE";
- Grant support to local environmental NGOs.

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Profile

Ever since the founding of REC in 1990, the Center has focused much of its work on the needs of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the region. The REC sees the growth of a strong, vibrant and influential environmental NGO movement as crucial to the protection of Central and Eastern Europe's environment.

REC's objective is to advance the development of civil society in the environmental field by promoting environmental protection standards and sustainable development principles in the process of transition and development. REC provides support for organisational development and activities of environmental NGOs in CEE as important components of civil society, primarily through various "Support Tools": financial resources, access to information and capacity building assistance. We also assist NGOs in roles pertinent to regional processes affecting the environment, such as: EU Accession, Environment for Europe and the REReP. Activities include:

- Providing regional, national, local and topic-specific grants to a number of donors;
- Capacity-building programmes (i.e. Training for Young Environmental Leaders);
- Promoting NGO participation in environmental decision-making;
- Researching new support mechanisms for NGOs (i.e. Sustainable NGO Financing);
- Promoting the strengths of environmental NGOs to other stakeholders and facilitation or dialogue between sectors; and
- Free access to REC information resources.



VII. NGO SUPPORT

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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **Danube Regional Project - National Grants Component**
- **Programme of Financial Support to Local Non-Governmental Organisations - DANCEE Grants**
- **Regional NGO Activities for Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans - National Grants Component**
- **On the Road to Kiev - Regional Grants Programme**
- **Development and Strengthening of NGOs - Cooperative Grants, REReP 2.5.1**
- **Partnership for Institutional Strengthening of Environmental Sector of Republic of Serbia-Programme of Financial Support to Local NGOs**
- **Supporting NGOs Within and Beyond the CEE Region - Regional and Local Grants Programme**
- **Strengthening SEE Environmental NGOs: Training in Basic Skills, REReP 2.5.2**
- **Environmental NGO Electronic Networking in South Eastern Europe**
- **Promoting Networking and Cooperation of Environmental NGOs: Establishment of Electronic Computer Networks at National and Regional Levels, REREP 2.3**

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Financial Support for NGOs

Profile

This topic area looks to enable NGOs to be more effective in their role as important civil society actors. The REC believes that with strong and effective NGOs there can only be benefits to environmental decision making and, therefore, to the environment itself. The REC places particular emphasis on supporting NGOs in regional processes and key environmental topics. Grants are given in local languages at local and national levels (up to EUR 5,000 and EUR 15,000, respectively) and in English at the international cooperative level (up to EUR 35,000). By providing financial support for regional projects, the REC promotes cross-border and regional cooperation among NGOs from different CEE countries and enables the exchange of skills and experiences. Through the Regional and National Grants scheme, NGOs are required to cooperate with other stakeholders: this enables intra-sectorial cooperation at the national level. The REC maintains strict standards of fairness and transparency in its granting procedures. It consistently receives a high number of competitive applications, and its processes can be readily adapted to various topics and scope. The REC is equally proficient at national, regional and local levels. The REC's staff of environmental professionals, its network of 16 country offices and independent advisory boards provide unparalleled expertise on environmental issues in Central and Eastern Europe.



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Danube Regional Project - National Grants Component

Scope
Regional

Country
Danube River Basin Countries

Overall project value
USD 1,500,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Beneficiary
NGO community

Origin of Funding
United States of America

Dates (start/end)
December 2002 to October 2006

Partners
Danube Environmental Forum, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Basin (ICPDR)

Objectives

The main goal of the DRP is to improve environmental quality by strengthening the structures and activities already in place in the basin to deal with pollution and environmental degradation. The programme includes a region-wide cooperative granting component and national-level grants assisting NGOs to manage projects that:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilisers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

Background

Already well underway, the DRP is an umbrella for some 80 activities: these are aimed at improving water supply and other water services, strengthening agricultural policy, providing river-basin management tools, and protecting wetlands and other areas. One specific goal in the effort to reduce nutrient pollution is to persuade industry and consumers to eliminate phosphates from detergents.

Within this regional initiative there is an awareness-raising component (Grants Scheme: Component III of DRP) implemented by the REC that will enable NGOs and other stakeholders to contribute to the reduction of nutrients and other pollution in the Danube River Basin through projects on both a national and regional scale.

This granting scheme is managed by REC Head Office in cooperation with REC offices in nine Danube Countries, in addition to those in Ukraine and Moldova. The programme includes a region-wide cooperative granting component, in addition to national-level grants in the Danube basin countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Activities

- Initiating a national and regional granting programme scheme;
- Preparing grants announcements at national and regional levels;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Providing capacity building for NGOs/ proposal preparation assistance;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluation;
- Ensuring quality control of funded projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross-border/regional cooperation;

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- Promoting a watershed approach;
- Managing information dissemination at national and regional levels;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

The programme supported seven NGO projects from Serbia and Montenegro, bringing different stakeholders together to address different problems of pollution of Danube watershed (at the national level), in working on reducing nutrients and toxic pollution generated through one of the topics: land-use and agriculture, water management, industries or municipalities. The total amount granted so far in Serbia and Montenegro is USD 60,000 (from a total of USD 120,000).

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Programme of Financial Support to Local Non-Governmental Organisations - DANCEE Grants

Scope
Regional

Country
22 countries from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS)

Project Budget
EUR 1,200,000

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Beneficiary
NGO Community

Origin of funding
Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DANCEE)

Dates (start/end)
January 2002
to July 2004

Objectives

The project objective was to promote NGO cooperation on priority environmental issues within and beyond CEE and NIS borders. The aim was to provide solutions to cross-border or region-wide environmental problems by enabling CEE/NIS NGOs to run cooperative projects and involve Danish NGO expertise. The programme objectives were:

- To raise public awareness of ecological aspects of priority themes and to encourage broader dialogue within and beyond borders;
- To promote active participation in the decision-making process and in defining priorities concerning the environment;
- To enhance cooperation between different stakeholders in solving environmental problems;
- To promote an integrated approach toward solving environmental problems.

Background

This call for proposals was intended to provide support to NGOs from CEE in carrying out environmental projects on nationally specific areas ('brown' environmental priorities as a preference). This was done through a competitive granting programme tailored to grassroots NGOs seeking to strengthen the capacity to carry out their own projects.

The call for proposals within the project "Supporting NGOs Within and Beyond CEE Borders" was conducted in Serbia and Montenegro with DANCEE support. The selected topics for Serbia and Montenegro, so called 'brown issues,' were Waste Management and Local Water.

Activities

- Preparing grant announcements at national and regional levels;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Cooperating with Danish Granting organisations;
- Providing capacity building for NGOs/proposal preparation assistance;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluations;
- Ensuring quality control of the projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross-border/regional cooperation;
- Promoting cooperation between CEE and Danish NGOs;
- Promoting cooperation between CEE, SEE and NIS NGOs;
- Promoting sustainable solutions to the 'brown issues' in CEE;
- Managing information dissemination at national and regional levels;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

Five grants worth a total of EUR 25,000 were awarded to NGOs in Serbia and Montenegro through this initiative. The grant implementation lasted less than one year (from July-August 2002 to June 2003). The programme results show the high overall impact of the granting programme. These small grants helped to increase the consciousness of citizens regarding roles and avail-

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able possibilities for better participation and cooperation with local stakeholders and governmental institutions. The participation of a high number of different groups and citizens in concrete actions of this granting programme revealed the level of interest related to the addressed issues. The majority of activities implemented through the small granting programme has helped the capacity building of all involved stakeholders. Joining different stakeholders and bringing different opinions regarding supported project issues resulted in a better understanding of the problems and issues, as well as proper roles of each and every actor in these processes in local communities. Building cooperative experiences among all stakeholders is one of the results in response to the previous lack of previous (political reasons mostly). The actual results of the small grants supported through this programme showed that cooperation is much stronger and effective when built upon concrete issues of common interest for the local community.

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Regional NGO Activities for Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans - National Grants Component

Objectives

The aims of the granting component are:

- To assist West Balkan NGOs financially in developing sustainable development projects in the SEE region;
- To promote intra-sector and cross-border cooperation between NGOs and local and regional authorities in order to address sustainable development issues;
- To identify and support NGO projects which impact trans-boundary or regional welfare in the Western Balkans.

Background

The West Balkan countries, including Serbia and Montenegro, have many opportunities (as well as threats) to achieve sustainable development. The transition process offers possibilities to establish institutions and develop legislation that is environmentally sound, to promote participatory decision-making processes and to use emerging civil society in order to introduce, develop and promote strategies for sustainable development in various areas, such as clean air and water, water supply, energy, land use, housing, waste treatment, transportation and health care.

Activities

A national granting programme has been initiated to strengthen the capacities of West Balkan NGOs to meet challenges while contributing to sustainable development of their countries and the region by:

- Preparing grant announcements at national and regional levels;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Providing capacity building of NGOs/ proposal preparation assistance;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluations;
- Ensuring quality control of the projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross-border and regional cooperation;
- Promoting sustainable solutions in West Balkan countries;
- Managing information dissemination at national and regional levels;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

In Serbia and Montenegro, 17 NGOs were granted a total awarded sum of EUR 130,000 for two rounds of national grant calls.

Scope
Regional

Country
SEE Countries

Overall project value
EUR 1,000,000

Implemented by REC SCG
15%

Beneficiary
SEE NGO community

Origin of funding
European Commission

Dates (start/end)
July 2003
to January 2006

Partners
Danube Environmental Forum, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Basin (ICPDR).

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On the Road to Kiev - Regional Grants Programme

Scope
Regional

Countries
Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey

Overall project value
EUR 230,000

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Name of client
NGO community

Origin of funding
Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Dates (start/end)
January 2002 to December 2003

Objectives

- To raise public awareness of ecological aspects of priority topics and to encourage wider discussion between countries;
- To promote active participation in the decision-making process and in defining environmental priorities;
- To promote an integrated approach toward solving environmental problems; and
- To prepare NGOs for involvement in the Kiev 2003 Ministerial conference.

Background

The initiative was designed to enable Central and Eastern European (CEE) and Newly Independent States (NIS) NGOs to prepare and provide input to the Kiev 2003 Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe (with an emphasis on special NGO sessions). Similar programmes managed by the REC supported NGO involvement in the Sofia and Aarhus Conference - with significant results. The grants enabled NGOs from Serbia and Montenegro, in addition to Balkan and EU-candidate countries, to prepare for Kiev 2003 and the NGO session at the Kiev Ministerial Conference.

Activities

- Preparing the regional cooperative grants announcement;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Providing capacity building for NGOs;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluation;
- Ensuring quality control of the funded projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross-border/regional cooperation;
- Coordinating NGO participation in the Kiev Ministerial conference;
- Managing dissemination of information;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

The grants ensured cooperative NGO efforts in preparing for the NGO session and the conference as a whole. NGOs from Serbia and Montenegro worked with regional counterparts to establish position statements that represented views and opinions shared with the NGOs of NIS and Western countries. Through the management of this project, the REC facilitated network building and open communication and cooperation among NGOs, thereby ensuring that environmental matters and public voices in Balkan and candidate countries are adequately heard at the Kiev Conference.

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Development and Strengthening of NGOs - Cooperative Grants, REReP 2.5.1

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE Countries

Overall project value
USD 485,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Name of client
SEE NGO community

Origin of funding
German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), via the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

Dates (start/end)
September 2001, December 2003

Objectives

- To contribute to the political stability and environmental health of South Eastern Europe (SEE) through the support and development of environmental civil society and to facilitate partnerships between German and SEE NGOs;
- To promote NGO cooperation between SEE countries in order to provide solutions to cross-border or regional environmental problems by enabling NGOs to run cooperative projects. Specifically, these objectives aim to:
  - Assist the process of rebuilding civil society;
  - Improve the status of the environment;
  - Help build contacts and stimulate cross-border cooperation between SEE NGOs;
  - Solicit and fund the best environmental NGO projects in SEE;
  - Stimulate sustainable development in the region;
  - Raise international community awareness of SEE environmental and civil society challenges;
  - Improve the information flow between interested parties;
  - Support the Aarhus Convention by strengthening access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

Background

The programme intention was to reinforce the role of NGOs in REReP by serving as a platform for cooperation and coordination of activities of NGOs in SEE, to build capacities for NGO participation in the regional reconstruction processes, as well as stimulating sustainable management of environmental change in South Eastern Europe. In order to help rebuild and support civil society development and the environmental NGO movement in the SEE area, enhance NGO cooperation, assist the improvement of the state of the environment and contribute to the political stability in the SEE region as a whole, the REC and GTZ offered the grants in order to carry out different activities and different objectives through: assisting the process of civil society rebuilding in the SEE countries; improving the state of the environment in the SEE countries; helping build contacts and stimulate cross-border cooperation among SEE NGOs; stimulating sustainable development of the SEE region; raising international community awareness of SEE environmental and civil society challenges; and disseminating the results of the projects, improving the information flow among interested parties.

Activities

- Preparing the regional cooperative grants announcement;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Providing capacity building and direct assistance for NGOs;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluation, and ensuring quality control of the projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross-border/regional cooperation;

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- Managing dissemination of information;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

There were seven selected projects from Serbia and Montenegro that received granting. The project results contributed to the process of civil society rebuilding; strengthened NGO capacities; contacts built and stimulated cross-border cooperation among SEE NGOs; stimulated sustainable development in the region by addressing issues such as: democratisation, security, sustainable growth, economical and civil society development; raised awareness of environmental and civil society on environmental issues; established good ties (SEE, CEE NGO cooperation) and exchanges of experience.

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Partnership for Institutional Strengthening of Environmental Sector of Republic of Serbia-Programme of Financial Support to Local NGOs

Scope
National

Country
Serbia

Overall project value
USD 32,100

Implemented by REC SCG
100%

Beneficiary
NGO community in Serbia

Origin of funding
Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Science and Environment Protection

Dates (start/end)
September 2001 to March 2002

Objectives

- Strengthening the institutional capacities of local groups and NGOs dealing with problems of environmental protection, and especially on the issues of biodiversity protection and adequate treatment of waste;
- Enabling NGOs to:
  - Actively participate in decision-making processes regarding environment;
  - Cooperate with local authorities and central government regarding environmental issues;
  - Raise public awareness about environmental priorities and encourage wider discussion between organisations;
  - Contribute to preservation and biodiversity protection and adequate waste treatment;
  - Raise public awareness about the need for biodiversity protection, as well as an active engagement in the solving of these problems;
  - Better inform the public about the importance of environmental protection; and
  - Inform, energise and educate the public about the need for biodiversity protection, waste treatment and environmental protection in general.

Background

Project activities started with the call for proposals, which was conducted through different dissemination channels of REC Country Office Serbia and Montenegro (distribution lists, web pages Śwww.recyu.orgĆ and local newsletter, The Bulletin, of REC CO Serbia and Montenegro). The announcement was also made through national newspapers, CO meetings and at several NGO meetings attended by the CO Grant Manager. The next step was for the REC's local advisory board to make selections among received grant applications, awarding grants to NGOs and later organising winners' meetings to sign the award agreements. The next programme activity was to monitor NGOs and evaluate NGO grants based on project performance.

Activities

This programme of financial assistance provided a short-timed endorsement at the local level for organisations in support of the following:

- Activities of institutional development, such as organising or taking part in training seminars, workshops and conferences;
- Local projects that contribute to public involvement and general awareness related to environmental problems, especially biodiversity protection and waste treatment problems in local communities; and
- Local actions and events, which contribute to the goals and objectives of the entire programme.

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Country-specific results

Eleven projects were granted to local NGOs from Serbia dealing with biodiversity protection issues and waste management issues.

Results of the call for grants were capacity building of NGOs and strengthened institutional capacities of local groups and NGOs dealing with problems of environment protection; active participation in decision-making processes regarding environment protection; raised public awareness about environmental priorities and wider discussion between organisations; raised public awareness on the necessity of biodiversity protection, as well as promotion of active engagement in solving these problems; informing and education of the widest public on the necessity of biodiversity protection and waste treatment.

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Supporting NGOs Within and Beyond the CEE Region - Regional and Local Grants Programme

Scope
Regional

Countries:
Countries from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS)

Project Budget
EUR 800,000

Implemented by REC SCG
5%

Name of client
NGO community

Origin of funding
Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DANCEE)

Dates (start/end)
July 2001 to July 2002

Objectives

The project objective was to promote NGO cooperation on priority environmental issues within and beyond CEE and NIS borders. The aim was to provide solutions to cross-border and region-wide environmental problems by enabling CEE/NIS NGOs to run cooperative projects and involve Danish NGO expertise. The programme objectives were to:

- Raise public awareness of ecological aspects of priority themes and to encourage wider discussion within and beyond borders;
- Promote active participation in the decision-making process and in defining priorities concerning the environment;
- Enhance cooperation between different stakeholders in solving environmental problems;
- Promote an integrated approach toward solving environmental problems.

Background

This call for proposals was intended to provide support to NGOs from CEE in carrying out environmental projects on regional and nationally specific areas. This was done through a competitive granting programme tailored to grassroots NGOs seeking to strengthen the capacity to carry out their own projects within the country and in cooperation with NGOs from other countries addressing similar topics concerning environmental protection.

The call for proposals within the project "Supporting NGOs Within and Beyond CEE Borders" (supported by DANCEE) was also conducted in Serbia and Montenegro. The selected topics for Serbia and Montenegro were: Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making; Biodiversity Protection; and Institutional Strengthening of NGOs at the Local Level.

Activities

- Preparing grant announcements at national and regional levels;
- Managing NGO grants;
- Cooperating with Danish Granting organisations;
- Providing capacity building for NGOs/proposal preparation assistance;
- Conducting environmental project monitoring and result evaluations to ensure quality control of the projects;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation at national and regional levels;
- Promoting cross border/regional cooperation;
- Promoting cooperation among CEE and Danish NGOs;
- Promoting public participation in CEE;
- Managing information dissemination at national and regional levels;
- Publishing.

Country-specific results

At the regional level, seven cooperative proposals were selected to receive grants worth EUR 157,188

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(including NGOs from Serbia and Montenegro).

At the national level, a total of 16 projects from Serbia and Montenegro were awarded to NGOs dealing with public participation, biodiversity protection and institutional strengthening.

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Strengthening SEE Environmental NGOs: Training in Basic Skills, REReP 2.5.2

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE Countries

Overall project value
USD 100,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Name of client
SEE NGO community

Origin of funding
US Environment Protection Agency

Dates (start/end)
November 2000
to September 2003

Objectives

- To meet SEE NGO needs for capacity building skills through training in management, fundraising and networking;
- To support goals of the Stability Pact and, under its auspices, REReP;
- To foster ownership of the Balkan reconstruction processes by the SEE countries themselves through the development of human capacity and resources;
- To improve and augment the ability of SEE NGOs to contribute to regional reconstruction efforts;
- To provide immediate assistance to NGOs in areas where they need it most;
- To foster public participation and heightened awareness of environmental issues and promote their importance to the greater Balkan reconstruction effort.

Background

The project aimed to promote public participation in identifying, prioritising and solving environmental problems at the community level, and to build partnerships between local governments and NGOs, businesses, and citizens, and to jointly identify and solve environmental priorities in their communities. Other aims were to strengthen the capacity of local governments by involving NGOs and citizens in local policymaking and planning, and strengthening the capacity of NGOs to be effective partners in community planning and problem-solving by taking good approaches to environmental management; as well as by facilitating greater understanding among environmental NGOs concerning the benefits of cooperation with other NGOs and stakeholders.

Activities

To respond to the training needs of environmental NGOs in South Eastern Europe, a set of user-friendly guides was produced, titles "Developing Skills of NGOs." Experts from SEE were involved in producing the guides, ensuring that the lessons included are informed by an understanding of specific regional needs. Afterwards, a series of workshops targeting NGO capacity building issues was conducted.

Country-specific results

There were seven training manuals prepared and translated into Serbian (Public Education to Raise Environmental Awareness; Local Environmental Action Programs; Presentation and Communication; Project Management; Proposal Writing and The Right to Know), then uploaded on the web

(http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/NGO_Support/DevelopingNGOSkills.html).

The training session for Serbian NGOs was conducted using the methodology promoted in the manuals.

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NGO Networking, Partnership and Access to Key Environmental Issues and Processes

Profile

The purpose of this topic area is to support the involvement of NGOs in wider debates and international processes. The REC has supported the involvement of NGOs in both the Environment for Europe and REReP processes by promoting and supporting cooperation and networking. In addition, the REC has assisted governments and international agencies to consult and debate with regional NGOs (notably the EU/NGO Dialogue series and World Bank consultations). To support awareness of the region's NGO community and to assist with their networking on priority topic areas such as Danube environmental pollution, desertification problems and the accession process, the REC encourages information gathering on the NGO movement and conducting research into its needs.

The activities in this Topic Area are carried out under several main themes, among which are:

1. Support for NGO involvement in international and regional processes;
2. Assistance for NGO participation in national and issue-related dialogues;
3. Development of and access to NGO-related information resources; and
4. Carrying out research projects of the NGO sector.



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Environmental NGO Electronic Networking in South Eastern Europe

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE Countries

Project Budget
EUR 350,000

Implemented by REC SCG
12%

Beneficiary
NGO Community in SEE

Origin of funding
Italian Ministry of Environment

Dates (start/end)
March 2003, December 2004

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to strengthen the civil societies of SEE countries by providing a platform for cooperation and information exchange. The primary target audience is environmental NGOs. Also:

- To support the region's environmental NGO community in terms of communication skills, human capacity, technical infrastructure, and influence on national policy-making;
- To create a forum for SEE regional networking and encourage the exchange of ideas at a regional level;
- To provide technical assistance to environmental NGOs;
- To build the capacity of environmental NGO personnel through training programmes;
- To support NGO access to a state-of-the-art information infrastructure;
- To secure the long-term sustainability of newly created environmental NGO networks by selecting and supporting a capable NGO to run and coordinate the network;
- To provide a one-stop gateway to environmental NGO information in South East Europe.

Background

The situation in the SEE region was assessed as suffering from the four major obstacles:

Technical and institutional barriers

In many SEE countries, environmental NGOs are confronted with basic infrastructural issues, and many have no access to computers or telephone lines of acceptable quality. Electronic NGO communications networks or other platforms of cooperation either do not exist, or are not yet widely used.

Need for education and training programmes

Many environmental NGOs are not well informed about the benefits of information networks, lack technical skills, or are not experienced with effective ways to communicate and handle information.

Little online content or activity

'Critical mass' has to be reached in order for these environmental information networks to take off and become sustainable over the long run. Therefore, NGOs need to be supported in sharing information with the community and becoming active participants in online discussions.

Scarcity of financial resources

One of the consequences of the rather bad economic situation in the Balkans is that environmental NGOs face enormous difficulties with purchasing equipment, paying monthly utility fees and funding employment costs or subcontractors. While paying monthly telecommunications expenditures may be feasible for many environmental NGOs, nearly all of them require external support with larger expense items, such as purchasing equipment.

Activities

- Increasing the capacity of existing network centres to cope with greater demand, both from a technical point of view (e.g. equipment,

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telecommunications) and from a human capacity point of view;
- Bringing interested NGOs into the networks and starting network activities;
- Conducting training seminars;
- Providing exchange programmes, conferences, and personal visits of environmental NGOs on a national, regional (SEE) and European levels;
- Starting/increasing the technical services provided by networks (this also includes services such as websites, online discussion boards and mailing lists);
- Providing technical equipment to participating NGOs, primarily those lacking the necessary equipment to access networks (e.g. computers, software and handbook);
- Updating project strategies and work plans based on the experience of the first two project years.

Country-specific results

- Advanced computer course for activists of VOLVOX network;
- Promo materials published;
- VOLVOX electronic newsletter launched;
- Regional cooperation and exchange of information between the regional networks (five study tours to Italy);
- Maintaining the successful operation of the VOLVOX network.

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Promoting Networking and Cooperation of Environmental NGOs: Establishment of Electronic Computer Networks at National and Regional Levels, REREP 2.3

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Project Budget
EUR 850,000

Implemented by REC SCG
12%

Beneficiary
NGO community

Origin of funding
Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Dates (start/end)
April 2001, December 2004

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to strengthen the civil societies of SEE countries by providing a platform for cooperation and information exchange. The platform chosen is 'computer networks.' The primary target audience is environmental NGOs. The key objectives of this project are to:

- Strengthen the environmental NGO community in SEE countries;
- Support the region's environmental NGO community in terms of communication skills, human capacity, technical infrastructure and influence on national policy-making;
- Provide a platform for cooperation and bring together environmental NGOs;
- Create a forum for SEE regional networking and encourage the exchange of ideas at a regional level;
- Provide technical assistance to environmental NGOs;
- Build the capacity of environmental NGO personnel through training programmes, and support access to state-of-the-art information infrastructures;
- Secure long-term sustainability of newly created environmental NGO networks by selecting and supporting a capable NGO to run and coordinate the network;
- Provide a one-stop gateway to environmental NGO information in SEE.

Background

In spite of its important role in the emerging civil societies of South East European countries, at present the SEE NGO community faces a number of difficulties. These range from s legacy of turbulent recent history and a dire financial situation to a lack of trained staff and the limited extent of day-to-day exchanges of information. Considering the diversity of SEE's environmental NGO movement, as well as the range of problems, an equally flexible support mechanism has to be identified.

One promising solution is highlighted by another recent development: the emergence of social networking and its main tool - computer networks. The Internet seems to fit the non-hierarchical structure of environmental NGOs and facilitates community building through the efficient day-to-day exchange of information.

Having found the focus of support, however, a second challenge had to be overcome: how to design a project that can deliver lasting results and tackle the most important priorities in the most efficient way. In order to pursue these and a number of other goals, the model of computer networks and the NGO community was chosen. Both are considered to favour non-hierarchical and transparent communication.

Activities

- Forming a network of working groups;

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- Conducting a needs assessment and publishing the results;
- Increasing the capacity of existing networks to cope with larger demand, both from a technical point of view (e.g. equipment, telecommunications) and from a human capacity point of view;
- Bringing in interested NGOs into the networks and starting network activities in the case of newly created networks;
- Creation of an SEE regional environmental NGO information hub at the REC Headquarters in Hungary;
- Holding 'training of trainers' seminars (participants will include key network centre personnel);
- Holding annual training seminars for network members in each country;
- Holding exchange programmes, conferences and personal visits of environmental NGOs at national, regional (SEE) and European levels;
- Starting/increasing the technical services provided by networks (including services such as websites, online discussion boards and mailing lists);
- Providing technical equipment to participating NGOs, primarily those that do not have the necessary equipment to access networks (e.g. computers, software and handbooks);

Country-specific results

- Established the VOLVOX electronic network of environmental NGOs in Serbia and Montenegro;
- Basic computer training for 56 members of environmental NGO and advanced-level training course web workshop with 20 participants (representatives of environmental NGOs);
- National meetings were organised (the first, held in December 2002 was attended by more than 60 environmental NGOs from the country and a few regional networks; the second one was held in December 2003);
- 15 computer working stations were distributed to NGOs from Serbia and Montenegro, which resulted in the establishment of network of local coordinators and news contributions from different parts of the country;
- Electronic distribution list through VOLVOX as a powerful tool of information exchange(over 220 NGO members);
- VOLVOX web-page is lunched;
- Regional cooperation and exchange of information between regional networks.

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VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Profile

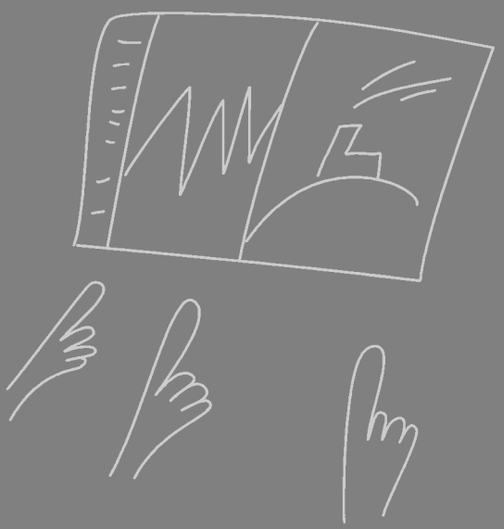
The Public Participation activities aim to support and facilitate access to information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters through capacity building, networking, legal and policy analysis and assistance to various stakeholders.

Public participation is a prerequisite for successful policy and decision-making and is a precondition for transparent, open and democratic governance.

Citizens have a right to voice their concerns in matters affecting them. Participation helps to create more informed government decision-making by incorporating diverse opinions, values and ideas and by resulting in direct, immediate knowledge of the environmental conditions from the community and citizens. Public involvement improves the quality of decision-making, raises citizen awareness of environmental issues and increases public understanding of projects involved in the decision-making. It also helps to defuse conflict or opposition to particular government actions and builds broad-based consensus for environmental programmes and more support for their implementation.

The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) adopted in June 1998 is a key international legal instrument supporting these goals.

Public Participation initiatives have been a core activity of the REC since 1990. They involve projects aimed at education, public awareness raising, capacity building and training, grants, networking on the regional level, as well as providing legal and policy analysis and assistance to various stakeholders.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

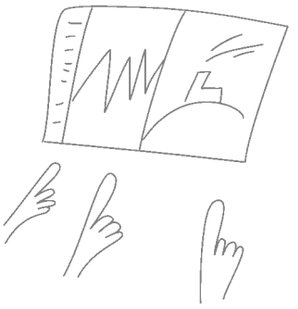
- **Support Developing Strategies for Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South Eastern Europe, REReP 2.2**
- **Building Capacities for Implementation of Aarhus Convention, REReP 2.21**

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Assisting Practical Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

Profile

This topic is related to support for practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention (AC) in new EU member states, SEE and EECCA countries. The aim is to facilitate the development and practical application of different mechanisms at national and local levels, to support public access to information and actively provide information, involve public participation in decision-making on permitting, environmental impact assessment (EIA), planning, strategic environmental assessment (SEA), decision making on GMOs, pollutant releases and transfer registers (PRTRs) etc., as well as promoting the implementation of 'access to justice' provisions of the AC. The REC will use a complex approach and rely on the significant experience and expertise built up during the drafting, ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Activities will be harmonised with relevant national and international partners such as UNECE, UNITAR, UNEP, UNDP, OSCE, ECOForum, etc. Within this process, the REC contributes to party meetings, working groups, task forces, expert groups under AC and promotes the active participation of CEE experts. In new EU countries, the focus will be on integrating AC provisions in practice into different fields - e.g. water, nature conservation, Natura2000, waste, etc., and applying EU directives to implement the AC. In SEE, the REC will support carrying out strategies and action plans developed in 2003 to implement the AC. Activities will help parties to the AC to improve implementation (Albania, FYR Macedonia), and will help Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to finalise the ratification process. In EECCA, the REC will assist with developing a more strategic approach for implementation, building on experience and networks developed in previous projects, and with providing assistance in specific priority areas identified by countries. Lessons learned will be shared between new and old EU member states, SEE and EECCA countries.Legal, institutional and practical assistance for implementation of the AC may include:developing and applying mechanisms to improve public access to information - e.g. using electronic tools, operating public information services, developing capacities for active providing of information, public registers, including PRTR systems, etc., and efficiency of public participation in specific and strategic decision making (e.g. permitting, EIA, SEA, GMOs, plans, programmes, policies) focusing on best practice methods of notification, organisation of public hearings, collecting an analysing comments, taking public comments duly into account, etc.



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Support Developing Strategies for Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South Eastern Europe, REReP 2.2

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Overall project value
EUR 908,295

Implemented by REC SCG
7%

Beneficiary
Government authorities, NGOs, media representatives

Origin of funding
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

Dates (start/end)
April 2001
to December 2003

Objectives

The project provided a framework for supporting development of the Aarhus Convention Implementation Strategy at both national and regional levels in South Eastern Europe (SEE). It aimed to:

- Provide a regional framework for such assistance to SEE countries according to their needs in developing, while later implementing successful strategies at the national level, as well as holding a forum for discussion and exchanges of experience at a regional level;
- Ensure a more transparent and participatory process for developing an implementation strategy for the Aarhus Convention in the SEE countries in dialogue with civil society groups;
- Develop strategies in cooperation with SEE governmental officials and NGOs;
- Design and establish opportunities for continuous civil society/NGO involvement in this process to create a basis for future participation in implementation of the Aarhus Convention;
- Hold capacity building workshops for local NGOs to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible in SEE countries;
- Support local pilot projects to enable NGOs and the public to apply the Aarhus Convention in practice and disseminate good practices.

Background

The Aarhus Convention, which entered into force in October 2001, has to date been ratified or acceded to by 26 European countries. In South Eastern Europe (SEE), the convention was ratified first by FYR Macedonia in 1999, followed by Romania in 2000, Albania in 2001, and Bulgaria in 2003. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro have not signed it, but have shown interest in acceding to it. The Netherlands' Ministry for Foreign Affairs funded (with the REC's help with implementation) the project to Support Developing Strategies for Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South Eastern Europe. Carried out between April 2000 and December 2003, the initiative relied on the cooperation of ministries of the environment and NGOs from the six SEE countries. Through a regional framework and a combination of national and local activities, the project helped SEE officials to develop an implementation strategy via a transparent and participatory process. The project also supported capacity building to enable government officials and NGOs to more efficiently implement the Aarhus Convention. The project was carried out within the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for Southeastern Europe (REReP), part of the Stability Pact.

Activities

- Selection of independent experts, preparation of terms of reference

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(TOR) and draft needs assessment reports;
- Inter-ministerial working group meetings to discuss the draft needs assessment report and priorities for project activities;
- Four Steering Committee meetings;
- Development of terms of reference for local pilot projects, call for applications for local pilot projects;
- Needs assessments and priority list finalised in all countries;
- Inter-ministerial working group meetings discussed the priorities for project activities;
- Draft work plan developed, discussed and accepted by an inter-ministerial working group and NGOs;
- Implementation of pilot projects, monitoring results;
- Specific country activities on legislative and institutional issues, capacity building, training, awareness raising and information dissemination; selecting and hiring consultants;
- Regular inter-working-group meetings to discuss results of specific country activities, including preparation of the draft implementation strategy, legislative and institutional issues, capacity building, training, awareness raising and information dissemination;
- Preparation of a report concerning the results of the Kiev Environment for Europe Conference;
- Participation of SEE country experts and NGOs in Aarhus-related events, party meetings, task forces, and working group meetings;
- Information dissemination about project activities and results through bulletins, publications, meetings, electronic and other means.

Country-specific results

- Establishment of the inter-ministerial working group: Representatives from relevant ministries and government institutions, and a representative of NGOs formed a working group for convention implementation in both republics. Six meetings were held in Serbia and four in Montenegro to discuss and adopt priorities, work plans, draft strategies and the action plans;
- Training sessions and workshops: programmes for different target groups were conducted in both Serbia and Montenegro, including ones for journalists, civil servants, NGOs, lawyers and judges, and members of parliament;
- Manuals for implementation of the Aarhus Convention: two practical manuals, one for government officials and one for NGOs and the general public, were prepared and published in both republics;
- Granting for selected pilot project in Serbia and Montenegro ensured;
- Strategies for implementation of the Aarhus Convention and action plans (both ministries adopted the draft implementation strategy [visit www.recyu.org], supported project implementation, and expressed interest in continuing the activities). Based on the strategy documents, action plans for implementation of the Aarhus Convention were developed and discussed at the inter-ministerial working group meetings and were presented to NGOs. In January 2004, the ministries of both republics adopted the action plan. Strategies were later printed in 500 copies in the national language.

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Building Capacities for Implementation of Aarhus Convention, REReP 2.21

Scope
Regional

Countries
SEE countries

Overall project value
USD 150,000

Implemented by REC SCG
10%

Beneficiary
Central and local government officials in SEE

Origin of funding
US Environment Protection Agency

Dates (start/end)
November 2000 to November 2002

Objectives

The project aimed to help central and local government officials, NGOs and other stakeholders to build capacity and improve efficiency and quality of government decision making through a more strategic institutional and practical approach in light of possible implementation of the Aarhus Convention and through the dissemination of good practices of CEE and Western countries in six SEE countries.

Background

The negotiation and signature of the UNECE Convention on Access to Environmental information, Public Participation in Environmental decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (or, Aarhus Convention) at the Aarhus Ministerial Conference in 1998 June was a turning point for Central and Eastern Europe in the process of transition. With the Aarhus Convention, a unique international legal instrument was born that can play an important role in harmonising legislation and practice in the field of access to environmental information, public participation and justice in a comprehensive way. Working within the UNECE region, it can also have a positive influence on the southern parts of Central and Eastern Europe.

Capacity building on access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice in environmental matters could facilitate practical application of the Convention, and could accelerate the political process leading to actual ratification. In addition to Convention standards, the best practices on access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice in environmental matters should be also promoted. Even those countries could profit from this experience which do not plan to immediately ratify the Convention.

In several SEE countries the legal framework for access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice in environmental matters was assessed as being far from complete, with practices in these fields being not very well developed or in the initial phase. The officials responsible for access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice matters were often uncertain about the most efficient methods, or were overwhelmed with other tasks. Experience with other bodies of national legislation and practices helped in developing and using more efficient and democratic mechanisms, and ultimately improved or contributed to a better and more transparent environmental decision-making process and toward building democratic structures. The examples of legislative measures and practices from other CEE and Western European countries, as well as the US, demonstrated how differently efficient, democratic, open, transparent and often cost-effective solutions work.

Activities

- Two training sessions in each of the five SEE countries for decision

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makers at local and national levels, including different agencies involved in decisions likely to have an impact on the environment, NGOs and other stakeholders in access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice, using recently developed local-language training manuals in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro;

- Training materials developed in local languages concerning public participation and implementation of the Aarhus Convention;
- Increased capacities of approximately 50-60 participants in each country, including government officials at central and local levels, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Country-specific results

- Two trainings for decision makers at local and national levels, including different agencies involved in decisions likely to have an impact on the environment, NGOs and other stakeholders on access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice "On the Road to Aarhus" in Sremska Mitrovica;
- Training on PRTR protocols in a competent ministry of the Republic of Serbia for 35 participants.

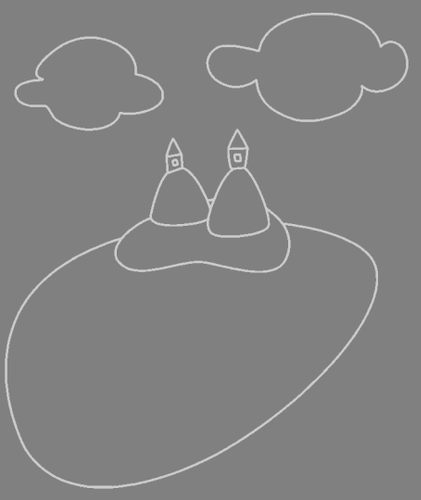
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IX. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Profile

This direction of work comprises projects focusing specifically on rural communities of REC countries and development in rural areas. Work within this topic supports the sustainable development of rural areas in CEE and SEE countries by promoting the integration of nature conservation principles into the development of rural areas and the sustainable use of natural resources. Special attention is given to sectors that can provide economically viable solutions for local development, such as agriculture and tourism. Based on its specific experience in facilitating transboundary and inter-sectoral cooperation, implemented nature conservation projects, such as Important Plant Areas (IPA) and nature conservation policy implementation in new EU member states, accession countries and SEE the REC intends to strengthen the roles of rural communities living in areas rich in biodiversity natural in order to preserve natural assets they posses, to promote multi-stakeholders dialogue and enable communities to take a proactive approach toward nature conservation in a way that brings benefits to local people.

The work done within the topic can be grouped around three main thematic areas: biodiversity, agriculture and eco-tourism. However, we must consider the main goal of sustainable rural development as an umbrella covering all three. The general focus therefore is on promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and nature conservation, information dissemination on biodiversity, sharing experience and knowledge in this respect, building the capacity of local communities, as well as to disseminating best practices in integrating nature conservation into rural development.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **Promotion of Networks and Exchange of Experiences in SEE Countries - West Stara Planina, REReP 4.3.23**
- **Promotion of Networks and Exchange of Experiences in SEE Countries - Skadar Lake, REReP 4.3.23**

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Promotion of Networks and Exchange of Experiences in SEE Countries - West Stara Planina, REReP 4.3.23

Objective

The purpose of this project is to support and implement activities leading to effective cross-border management of natural recourses, to empower local stakeholders to improve their well -being through support and promotion of environment friendly tourism, agriculture and traditional crafts.

Background

Within the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Regional Environmental Center (REC) launched a project based in three transboundary nature-protected sites (Neretva River Delta, Skadarsko Lake, West Stara Planina Mountain) in six countries of the region.

The Project operates on three levels:

- Local site level (cross-border exchanges and local capacity building);
- Regional level among three cross-border sites (promotion of networks for joint management of cross-border sites);
- SEE regional level (environment as a trigger for cooperation in other areas).

Activities

- Trainings;
- Granting;
- Information exchange;
- Strategic planning;
- Enhancing public participation;
- LEAP development.

Country-specific results

- Social economic assessments study;
- Two rounds of grants, NGO support, EFA farming, local crafts;
- Three LEAPs developed;
- Cross-border events (children's festivals, summer schools, study tours);
- Institutionalised Forum of the Mayors in 4 + 4 Municipalities;
- Organic Farming Strategy developed;
- Eco-tourism support.

Scope
Regional

Countries
Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria

Project budget
EUR 950,000

Implemented by REC SCG
25%

Beneficiary
Municipalities in West Stara Planina (4 + 4)

Origin of funding
SDC, Switzerland

Dates (start/end)
October 2001 to October 2006

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Scope
Regional

Countries
Serbia and Montenegro, Albania

Project Budget
EUR 950,000

Implemented by REC SCG
25%

Beneficiary
Municipalities in Skadar Lake

Origin of funding
SDC, Switzerland

Dates (start/end)
October 2001 t o October 2006

Promotion of Networks and Exchange of Experiences in SEE Countries - Skadar Lake, REReP 4.3.23

Objective

The purpose of this project is to promote sustainable resource utilisation through capacity building (project writing and management, fundraising communication with donors, etc.) and biodiversity monitoring

Background

Within the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Regional Environmental Center (REC) launched a project based in three trans-boundary nature-protected sites (Neretva River Delta, Skadarsko Lake, West Stara Planina Mountain) in six countries of the region.

The Project operates on three levels:

- Local site level (cross-border exchanges and local capacity building);
- Regional level among three cross-border sites (promotion of networks for joint management of cross-border sites);
- SEE region level (environment as a trigger for cooperation in other areas).

Activities

- Bilateral meeting between the ministries of environment of Montenegro and Albania;
- Establishing a bilateral platform for discussion issues of cross-border sites (forums);
- Capacity-building workshops (project preparation, planning and monitoring);
- Supporting local cross-border networks (teachers, NGOs, media);
- Training in environmentally friendly agriculture;
- Elaboration of a cross-border plans for developing rural tourism in cross-border areas;
- Distributing grants to NGOs and other civil society groups;
- Networking and Monitoring

Country-specific results

- Development of studies (bibliography of Skodra/Skadar Lake, biodiversity database, Report on Risks and Potentials, etc.);
- Grants support to NGOs, National Park, Skadar Lake;
- Trainings;
- Workshops/study tours for schoolchildren;
- Info-bulleting printing, website development;
- Establishment and logistical support for national and cross-border stakeholders' forum.

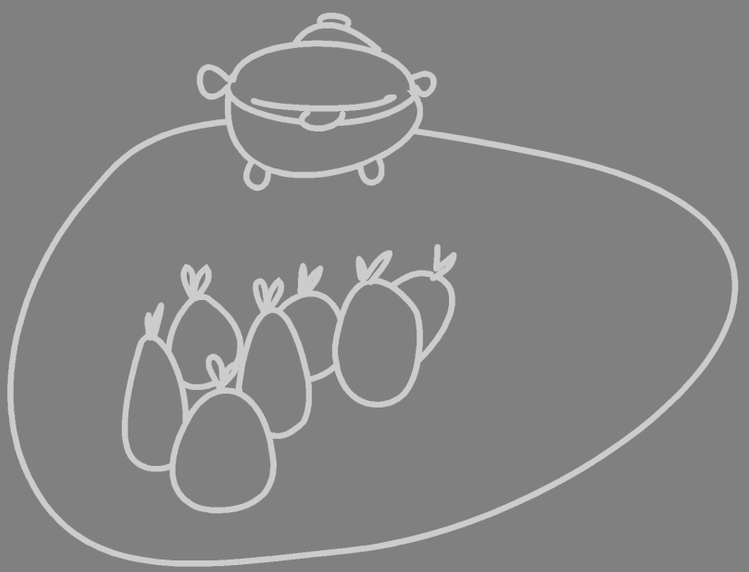
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X. WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Profile

This direction of work covers the broad field of integrated resource management, with a strong focus on production and consumption wastes. On the production side, industrial process residues (including hazardous substances) are being studied for their potential to be minimised in generated volumes, along with their potential to pose risks to the environment and population. Safe utilisation of these wastes is considered of vast potential toward improving the competitiveness of European enterprises, and to provide more health and wealth to Europeans.

Besides research and development work, REC experts (many of them located in the REC Country Offices) have developed waste management strategies and plans, and have delivered such practical services as capacity building and waste systems improvement to municipalities, regulators and companies.



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LIST OF PROJECTS:

- **REMUS - Regional Municipal Waste Management Project**
- **SWAMAP - Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan**
- **"WAMASPO" - Designing a Strategic Policy Framework for Waste Management**

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REMUS - Regional Municipal Waste Management Project

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project budget
EUR 54,000

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund (JSF)

Dates (start/end)
January 2003 to March 2004

Objectives

The Scope of the project was environmental policy development (municipal solid waste management planning).

The overall objective of the project was to establish an environmentally and economically sustainable municipal solid-waste management system in the one waste management region/district, which is composed of a few municipalities, to serve as an implemented example of the Solid Waste Management Plan for Serbia.

Project goals embraced the following:

- Integral overview of relevant financial and economical parameters for financing and organising those enterprises dealing with problems of communal solid waste in the state and private sectors;
- Financial and economic analysis for the development of solid waste treatment facilities;
- Preparation of the action plan for establishing inter-municipal organisations for solid waste treatment;
- Setting up the concept of a solid waste management system and selecting the most practical options;
- Improving and strengthening of the solid waste management system;
- Preparing conditions for designing a regional sanitary landfill.

Background

The project fully addressed the usual priorities of waste management hierarchy: waste prevention; waste minimisation; waste recovery/recycling; energy from waste; waste disposal. However, existing practices of waste collection and disposal were identified as a major problem, which had to be addressed before exploring more sophisticated and more expensive solutions.

The long-term perspective of the project was to establish an environmental and economic sustainable waste management system in one waste management region/district, which is composed of a few municipalities, and to promote it in this way as a pilot project and example for the rest of Serbia's municipalities. The strategy proposed regional cooperation for waste management and regional sanitary landfills.

Activities

Stakeholder assessment was undertaken in each of the pilot municipalities in order to:

- Determine the number of people involved in solid waste management activities, including recycling activities (both directly and indirectly);
- Identify different groups of people (with particular regard to minority groups, and the different roles played by men, women and children);
- Recommend the steps needed to mitigate the impacts of reforming municipal solid waste management for different stakeholders.

The final workshop was organised to present and discuss results of the project to relevant stakeholders. The project team also developed stakeholder awareness analysis and reviewed the extent of public

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involvement in waste management, including:

- Awareness of the need for waste management;
- Willingness and ability to pay for these services;
- Involvement or participation in community?based waste management systems.

Country-specific results

- Facilitated dialogue between local stakeholders on issues related to developing regional waste management and enhanced awareness of the need for a regional approach;
- Designed and published (hard copy and CD) the Regional Municipal Waste Management Plan for one selected region, which was published online at *<www.recyu.org>;*
- The Regional Municipal Waste Management Plan for one selected region was adopted by the Ministry for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment;
- The outcomes provided an example of good practices for the remaining municipalities in Serbia;
- There was a final workshop for decision makers, the academic sector, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders in the region, such as communal enterprise representatives and industrial representatives;
- A web page provided relevant information on the project and its results.

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SWAMAP - Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project budget
EUR 61,000

Beneficiary
Central government

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund (JSF)

Dates (start/end)
August 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003

Objectives

- To protect the health of the population through efficient waste management;
- To promote environmental quality and sustainability;
- To support economic productivity and employment generation;
- To provide a Municipal Waste Management Plan as a basis for design and construction of regional sanitary landfills.

Background

The situation in Serbia and Montenegro was characterised by bad solid waste management practices, with resultant risks to public health and the environment. Key issues here were the potential for contamination of water resources, air quality, and the outbreak and spread of disease. Solid waste management is not only a technical problem. It is deeply connected with some social and economic movements - especially at the cultural level and public consciousness.

The next step in municipal solid waste management should be the formation of a multi-municipal region for sustainable waste management and regional sanitary landfill construction with transfer and recycling stations in municipalities.

Activities

Project activities included three seminars for all relevant representatives from municipalities in Serbia. The first one was held in the town of Novi Sad (Vojvodina Province), followed by a workshop in Krusevac (Central Serbia) and the final one in Belgrade, where the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan was proposed to all relevant stakeholders for discussion.

The results of the analyses and reviews conducted were presented, including maps of multi-municipal regions for waste management, cost evaluation of multi-municipal solid waste management practice and closures of existing dump sites in Serbia.

Upon finishing the review procedure, the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan was published, including a CD version.

The Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan developed a multi-municipal region approach for sustainable waste management and a plan to construct regional sanitary landfills with transfer and recycling stations in municipalities.

Country-specific results

- Facilitated dialogue of stakeholders on issues related to waste management in the Republic and enhanced awareness of the need for a regional approach;
- Designed and published (hard copy and electronic form) copies of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan;
- Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan adopted by the Directorate of Environmental Protection of Republic of Serbia;
- Held an international workshop for national decision makers, relevant regional representatives, academic sector, NGOs;
- Held two regional seminars for representatives of local govern-

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ments and waste institutions from all Serbian municipalities;

- Published a web page providing relevant information on the project and its results.

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"WAMASPO" - Designing a Strategic Policy Framework for Waste Management

Objectives

The overall aim of this project was to provide a Waste Management Strategic Policy Framework as the baseline for Solid Waste Management Strategy and a series of detailed Implementation Plans, leading to the progressive improvement in waste management services and equipment, and ultimately to an approximation of national practices and procedures to international waste management standards and practices.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Provide a Waste Management Strategic Policy Framework as a baseline for Solid Waste Management Strategy and a series of detailed Implementation Plans;
- Establish mechanisms for more accurate estimates of waste generation rates;
- Address waste issues through local community participation.

Background

The situation in Serbia was characterised by poor practices, with resultant risks to public health and the environment, and with high potential for contamination of water resources, air quality, and the outbreak and spread of disease. Solid waste is collected only in urban centres, but for rural parts there is no organised waste treatment. There is neither a system for separate collection of hazardous waste (especially waste from hospitals and industry) nor a specialised company for a treatment of waste. The infrequency of waste collection is not the result of needs and necessities for the cleaning of settlements and towns, but rather of the communal enterprises. There is no hazardous waste landfill. There are 180 dumps for municipal waste in Serbia.

This strategic document, first designed in Republic of Serbia after the political changes of 2000, addresses domestic, industrial (including hazardous) and medical waste, and defines necessary strategic steps for the implementation of efficient waste management in the Republic of Serbia that is in line with international standards on a long-term basis.

Activities

- Collection of available information sources; covering organisational arrangements, infrastructure availability, data about domestic, industrial and medical waste quantity, the current position of cost and revenues, level of professional development and public attitudes towards waste;
- Research and field data gathering and analysis;
- Project team visited representative municipalities and dumpsites, met and established contacts with key persons in municipalities, and assisted in further tasks.

Country-specific results

- Designed and published Waste Management Strategic Policy Framework;
- Waste Management Strategic Policy Framework adopted by the Government of Serbia and Board for Environmental Protection, Parliament of Serbia;

Scope
National

Country
Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia)

Project budget
EUR 53,300

Beneficiary
Central government

Origin of funding
Japan Special Fund (JSF)

Dates (start/end)
January 2001 to January 2002

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- Web page providing relevant information on the project and its results;
- Two PCs and two printers provided for the Waste Management Department of the Directorate for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

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REC SCG Team

Currently, the REC SCG is one of the most highly developed among the REC's Country Office network, with 20 employees (14 CO staff and six project office staff) and six offices: Country Office Serbia and Montenegro in Belgrade (Serbia), Field Office Montenegro (Montenegro), as well as project offices in Podgorica (Montenegro), Pirot, Kikinda, Bečej, and Bačka Topola (Serbia).

At REC SCG we believe that the most important resource of the organisation is people who actively respond to recognition, involvement and opportunities for personal and career development within the professional environment compliant with the mission and goals of REC.

- We encourage teamwork with mutually supportive relationships based on knowledge sharing, objectivity, integrity, open communication and trust.
- We communicate our goals clearly to our partners, never losing focus on the task ahead of us.
- Our workplaces are functional, clean and safe. Our efforts are directed towards minimisation of environmental impact of our own activities. Greening the REC and recycling programme within the REC are part of our daily activities.
- Our working environment fosters mutual values, goals and goodwill.
- We constantly strive for excellence of performance to the satisfaction of our clients.
- Enthusiasm is inherent to our professional approach, because we never lose sight of the big picture.

The REC's SCG team addresses problems constructively, learns from them and seeks sustainable solutions through partnerships with all relevant stakeholder groups. We provide solutions fot people and the environment.

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