



# “Regional Cooperation”

## REC’s experience

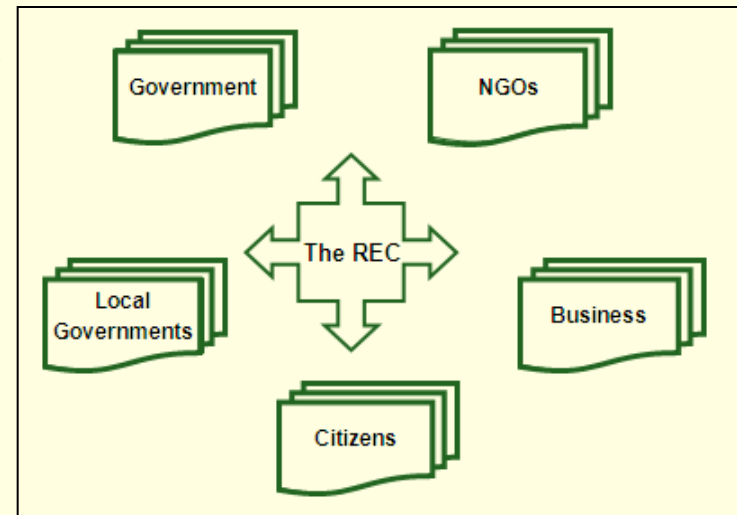
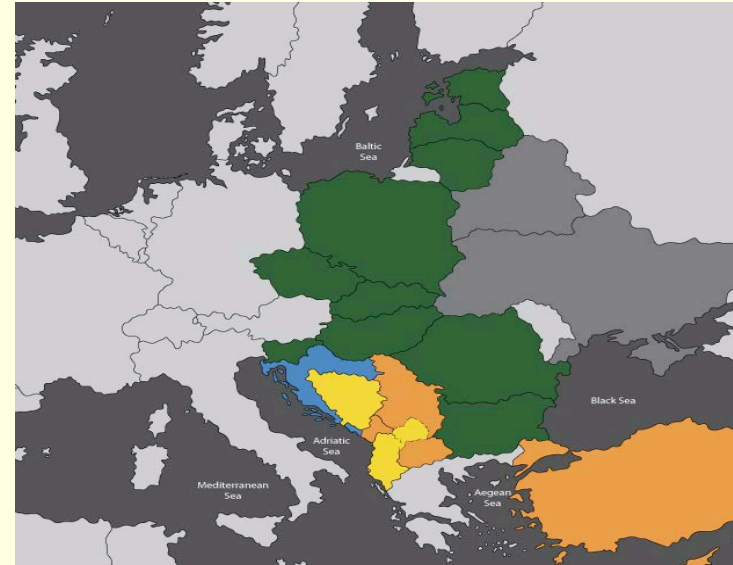
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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

# Regional Environmental Center (REC)

- An international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues
- Legally based on a charter signed by 31 countries and the EC
- Multi-stakeholder international Board
- 190 staff members (some 30 nationalities)
- Offices in 17+ countries
- 100% project based organisation
  - over 200 running projects
  - annual turnover 10-12 MEUR
- Operates in various regions:
  - EU Members of CEE
  - EU Enlargement countries, candidates and potential candidates
  - Eastern Partnership Countries
  - EU27
  - Operation beyond the REC Country Office Network



# Main directions for work



- Following Strategy 2011-2015 and “Rio +20” two main themes, REC has two main directions for work:
  - **Governance for sustainability**
  - **Green economy**
- Within these directions REC performs project activities across partner countries in a specialised working teams – Topic Areas – that use the available expertise from all organisational levels of the REC



# REC Topic Areas

	TA Name	Abr
1	Sustainable Development Academy	SDA
2	Educational tools	EDU
3	Health and Environment	HEN
4	Participatory governance	PAG
5	Law Development, Enforcement and Compliance	LEC
6	Local governance	LOG
7	Biodiversity	BIO
8	Climate change and clean energy	CCE
9	Environmental financing	EFI
10	Environmental Management	EMA
11	Green transport	GTR
12	Water management	WMA



# Potential REC services – REC competencies

- **Coordination and management of complex environmental related projects** (including international secretariats)
  - Neutral platform
  - Mission driven approach
  - Transparent, flexible implementation
- **Specific support in the drafting of national strategies and programmes for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy**
- **Research**
  - National and regional coordination
- **Civil society support**
  - grants
  - capacity building
- **Policy briefs; good practices; integrated policy guideline documents**
- **Stakeholder involvement**
  - cross-sectoral governmental bodies and agencies,
    - e.g. ministries like environment, energy, housing, transport, agriculture, health, water, climate change, forestry innovation & employment
  - the business sector, the finance community
  - civil society
  - academia
  - media
- **Capacity building**
  - organisation of complex and comprehensive seminars and workshops at the national and regional level



# TOP 12 REC projects

N.	Donor Group	Donor Name	Project Name	Topic Area	Overall amount
1	Financial Mechanism (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)	EEA and NO Grants FMO	EEA/Norway Grants - Preparation costs	Climate change and clean energy	7,010,000
2	Sweden	SIDA	STREAM	LOG/PAG	5,153,396
3	Finland	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland	Local communities and sustainable schools	Local governance	4,307,000
4	European Commission	EC DG Health and Consumer Protection	SINPHONIE- Complex research on Health, Environment-Transport and Climate change (HETC)- Improvement of in and outdoor air quality	Health and environment	3,833,050
5	European Commission	EC DG Energy and Transport	CIVITAS VANGUARD - Advancing Sustainable Urban Transport in an Enlarged Europe through CIVITAS	Green transport	3,549,289
6	European Commission	Ministry of Finance / Turkey	Capacity building in the field of Environment	Law Development, Enforcement and Compliance	3,000,000
7	European Commission	CENTRAL EUROPE Programme	Urban Spaces – enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban environment	Biodiversity	1,966,577
8	Sweden	SIDA	SENiOR-A: Environmental CSO Support in Albania	Participatory governance	1,749,400
9	Norway	Ministry of Environment - Serbia	Programme for setting up Environmental Management Center (EMC) in Serbia	Environmental Management	1,620,570
10	Sweden	SIDA	Local Environmental Action Planning for Sustainability in Kosovo/a	Local governance	1,079,900
11	Austria	Austrian Development Agency	Promoting regional cooperation in SEE via networking within the authorities responsible for the environment and justice sectors (THEMIS)	Law Development, Enforcement and Compliance	700,000
12	European Commission	Politecnico di Torino	Europe-China Clean Energy Centre (EC2)	Climate change and clean energy	683,638

# Key finding & challenges identified by REC – Climate Change

- Public authorities have different levels of capacity
- Usually no cross-sectoral approach: climate change is partially addressed by them and there is no exact assessment of sectoral vulnerabilities
- Adaptive capacity is generally low
- Fragmentation and lack of coordination of data services
- Institutional and human capacity dealing with adaptation to climate change is weak
- Lack of systematic approach for developing low-carbon policies
- Lack of capacity for transposing EU legislation in the field of CC in a coordinated manner



# Further steps identified by REC – Climate Change

- Establishing a sound database of climate projections and sectoral vulnerability indicators is a major challenge.
- Increasing the capacities and knowledge of local communities is crucial (and SME's!)
- On the long term the transition to a greener and decarbonized economy will require the collaborative efforts of policymakers, businesses, civil society and citizens in rethinking and redefining traditional drives of prosperity and wealth.
- Adaptation related measures can provide opportunities for innovation, new technologies and more.





# Thank you for your attention!



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