

Western Balkans and Europe 2020 – Supporting Convergence and Growth

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***Panel 2: Infrastructure and Sustainable
Growth***

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REC Starting points for work in SEE region

- Services tailored
 - to the needs of SEE countries – tackling national and local problems
 - European and Global priorities
- Guidance for our work in the region:
 - Enlargement Strategy
 - Annual Progress Reports national and regional – European Partnership
 - National Strategic Documents
 - EU 2020 Strategy

What do the WB countries share?

- Common goal of EU integration
 - Interstate dialogue
 - Good relations
 - Regional cooperation, as:
 - specific requirement under the Stabilization and association agreements
 - cornerstone of the EU policy framework
 - opportunity of EU membership



Status of implementation of EU 2020 Strategy in REC beneficiary countries....

- Opportunities to promote the EU strategy:
 - Relatively high energy intensity
 - Limited –although increasing-use of RES
 - Lower rates of waste recycling
 - Obsolete public transport infrastructure
 - Relatively strong agriculture and forestry sectors
 - Good potential for the utilisation of domestic renewables
- The countries have very good potential to create a large number of ‘green/low carbon jobs’ in their relevant sectors in the use of
 - new innovative technologies (RES) and
 - green/low carbon services



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 and employment
 - the business sector
 - the finance community
 - as well as the representatives of civil society and academia
 - media
- Capacity building
 - organisation of complex and comprehensive seminars and workshops at the national and regional level



Building on the success of REReP

(Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe)

•SEE ministerial mandate given to the REC

- Implemented from 2000 to 2009
- Assistance for over 60 M EUR provided directly via the REC offices
- Dozens of key publications documenting the work done on our website

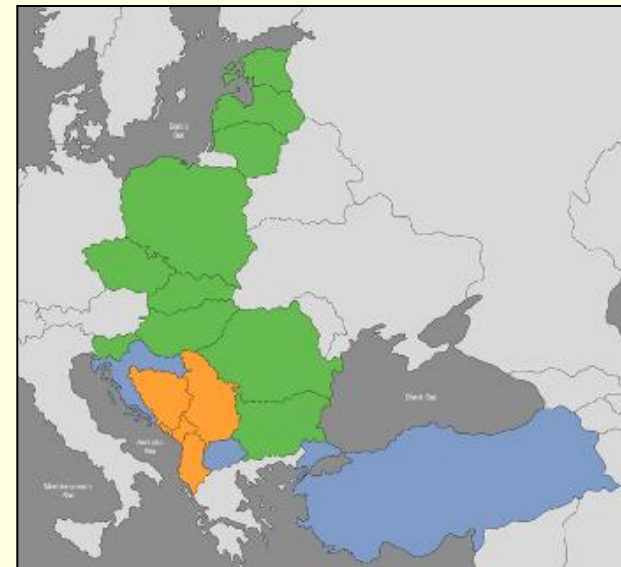
- institutional strengthening, policy reform, legal assistance, incl. progress monitoring
- capacity building on regional, national and local level
- support for the environmental inspectorates BERCEN/ECENA
- Priority Environmental Investment Programme
 - strategies and action plans developed and implemented, especially on local level in over 30 municipalities
- civil society support
- implementation of multilateral environmental agreements,
- promotion of cross-border cooperation
- support for the Sava Commission establishment
- ...



Regional Environmental Center (REC) matching the region.....

- “... is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems (...)”
 - The **REC** is legally based on a **charter signed by 30 countries** and the EC
 - Multi-stakeholder international Board
 - **190 staff** (some 30 nationalities)
 - **Offices in 17 countries**
 - 100% project based organization
 - over **200 running projects**
 - 10 – 12 million € annual turnover

- Yugoslavia signed our Charter followed by all individual WB state joined it as well
- The REC is recognised by 4 WB countries as international organisation
 - Ongoing harmonization with the signatories



Bridging



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Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors I.

Local Environmental Action Planning for Sustainability

- Project Objectives:
 - Improving environmental planning;
 - Providing environmental investments;
 - Improving environmental management
- Work in 20 municipalities
- Budget: 2,6 MEUR
- Funding secured: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) –
- Funding gap
 - 3 M EUR to continue in other WB municipalities, out of which 1M for municipal investments

DABLAS Task Force

- Danube and Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS) Secretariat (11/2009 – 11/2011) – promoting waste water treatment (WWT) investments within river basin management framework
- WWT projects Pre-appraisal guidelines in the process of drafting – will help WB countries do a quick pre-appraisal of investment ideas; testing in Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- River Basin Management Plan: transfer of lessons learned from NMS to WB – process of drafting
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/dablas/index_en.htm



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors II.

Assistance to border WB municipalities to solve environmental problems through preparation of investments

- Strengthening the capacity of local governments and utility managers for environmental investment identification, development and preparation
- Increased cooperation between the municipalities
- Funding gap
 - 650,000 EUR for a study, trainings, pre-feasibility studies and 3 feasibility studies

Support for investment preparation in WB municipalities

- Build on the success of the PEIP (capacity building, manuals)
- Water and waste, incl. infrastructure maintenance;
- Investment component of the river basin management plans
- Funding gap
 - 1 M EUR for CB on municipal level



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors III.

Enhancing cross border cooperation in the Drina River Basin

- 0,7 M EUR ensured from Norway,
- funding gap for follow up activities needed 0,5 EUR:
 - Inventory of pollution sources
 - Waste management in 3 municipalities
 - Capacity building and networking for emergency warning systems
 - Public awareness and education
 - Drina River Committee support



Education for SD - Drina River Basin

- Available funding: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Total: 4,307 million EURO
- Beneficiaries:
 - Education environment ministries, schools and communities (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) & broader WB
- Overall Objective:
 - An increased awareness of SD in
 - the education community
 - An increased awareness of SD planning processes in
 - communities
- Funding gap for follow-up activities:
 - 10 M EUR, incl. for improving the school infrastructure



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors IV.

Green Pack

- Multi-media environmental education curriculum kit implemented in all WB countries

- 5000 secondary school teachers trained and 600,000 students educated

- Objectives:

- Further support for the education for sustainable development policy
 - Develop/upgrade new educational tools: Green Pack, Green Pack Junior, Citizen Pack
 - Continue with comprehensive teachers' training programme
 - Raise public awareness and cooperation including school and citizen's initiatives at local level, and work with mass media

- Planned activities

- A1: 5-year programme "Education for sustainable development in Western Balkans" – including Serbia, Kosovo under USCR 1244, Montenegro, Albania and FYR Macedonia
 - A2: 2 year Green Pack project in Croatia
 - A3 2 year Green Pack Junior project in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Finance-secured and funding gap:

- A1: total budget 7.5 M USD – 1.5 M secured by Rockefeller Brothers Fund, missing 6 mln.
 - A2: total budget 450,000 EUR – no donors available for the time being
 - A3 total budget 450,000 EUR – no donors available for the time being



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors V.

Sustainable development Academy

- Since the programme was launched in 2004, almost 20 courses, attracting around 500 participants, have been delivered in REC regions including WB
 - Participants have included senior representatives of cities, local communities, regional and national governments, associations of towns and municipalities, regional development agencies and relevant businesses.
 - A valuable network of participants has been created in order to promote local and regional solutions for sustainability.
- Funding gap 0.6 M EUR

Virtual Climate Change Center

- Built on the co-operation of the WB countries on adaptation
 - UNFCCC Article VI. activities
 - CB, training, awareness raising
 - Planned activities – e.g. April 11-13 high level scientific and ministerial conference on adaption
- Funding gap 2.5 M EUR



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors VI.

Climate change: Promotion of low-carbon society

- Key challenges:
 - Assist candidate countries contributing to the implementation of the EU Directives towards reaching the 20/20/20 targets
 - Shaping sectoral adaptation policies (cross-boundary cooperation)
- Planned activities:
 - Conducting case studies to assess vulnerability/impacts (focus on water, agriculture)
 - Contribute to the implementation of Env. Acquis in the Energy Community Countries
 - Contribute to the introduction and application of innovative financial mechanisms for EE in buildings
 - Capacity building on sustainable energy
- Funding gap: 1.5 M EUR

Illegal logging

- Main activities:
 - Fact-finding report concerning the magnitude, severity, practices and consequences
 - Diagnostic audits to evaluate the capacities to address the issues
 - Action Plan/ concrete recommendations directed at specific institutions and relevant actors
 - Conferences and events to bring attention to the problem logging
 - <http://illegallogging.rec.org/home.html>
- Funding Available:
 - ENVSEC Initiative Finland 249,000 USD, Belgium 100,000 USD
- Funding gap 0,5 M EUR



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors VII.

Public participation

•Planned activities:

- Capacity building on using new information and communication technologies
- Capacity building on implementing participatory approaches on issues like energy, transport, urban planning, CC
- Support CSO development

•Funding is secured for:

- Strengthening regional cooperation on environmental governance through participatory and informed decision-making – Implementation of Aarhus Convention, PRTR Protocol and EU directives (ENVSEC)
- Supporting Civil Society in Serbia

•Funding is needed for follow up or new projects for:

- Capacity Building to Put the Aarhus Convention into Action and Support Development of PRTR Systems
 - 211,189 EUR (submitted)
- Civil Society Support Framework Programme for SEE, 2012-2015
 - 1.5-3 M EUR
- Capacity building and support to involvement of and dialogue with key actors and stakeholders on developing and implementing participatory approaches in environment and sustainable development related areas
 - 500,000-800,000 EUR
- Helping consumers to make well-informed and more conscious choices
 - 300,000 EUR



Bridging the needs of the Beneficiaries with the potential support of the Donors VIII.

Environmental Management Center in Serbia

- Through efficient emission monitoring and reporting EMC will aim at environmental pollution reduction, providing its members with enhanced environmental management capabilities
- Joint work by Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Serbian Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, REC, Emisoft
- Funding:
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Funding gap: 2 M EUR

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- for Local Sustainable Development in the Western Balkans
- Implemented by the REC and ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation
 - Funding secured: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
 - Total budget: 1,3 M EUR
- Funding gap
 - Involving 10 municipalities;
 - 1 M EUR, incl. for municipal investments



Thank You for You Attention!



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