



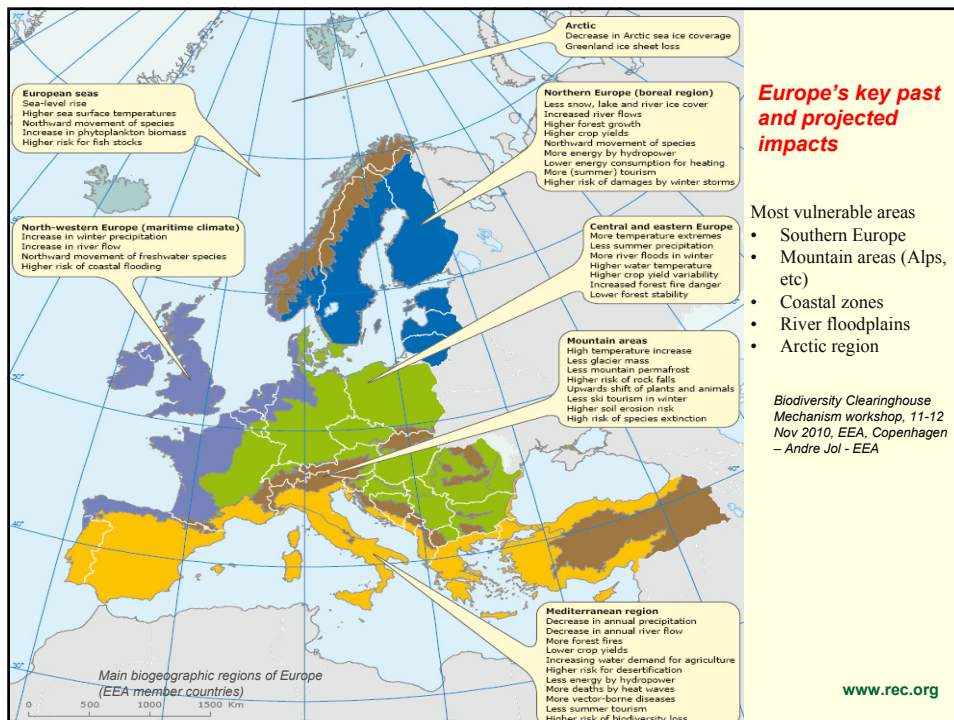
“Regional Cooperation Approaches for RES and EE”

Promotion of sustainable energy actions in CEE, Western Balkan and beyond REC’s experiance

Marta Szigeti Bonifert
Executive Director
Vienna, 28 April 2011

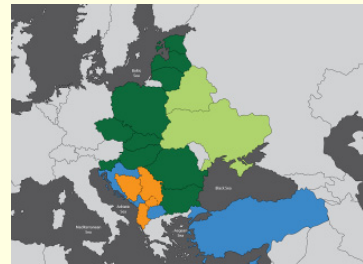


REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



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
 - Operates in various regions:
 - EU Members of Central and Eastern Europe
 - EU Enlargement countries, candidates and potential candidates
 - Eastern Partnership Countries
 - EU27
 - Operation beyond the REC Country Office Network



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Transition ... TRANSFORMATION

- System
- Society
- Economy (markets, households, companies)
- Governance – political, governmental



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

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



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Key examples – Climate Change



- Promotion of Sustainable Energies
 - EU-China Clean Energy Center project
 - to facilitate cooperation between China and the EU in the field of clean, sustainable energy through the Center set in Beijing to mitigate GHG emission
 - INTENSE
 - the transfer of intelligent energy-saving measures from municipal housing in old EU MS (Germany) to NMSs and candidate countries.
- Promotion of Low Carbon Society
 - LG-Action
 - Networking action to involve and mobilize local governments (LGs) in EU to take active part in international climate and energy debate.
 - Financing Low Carbon refurbishment
 - Demonstration project in the CEE region for removing barriers from financing low carbon refurbishment projects including research on existing policy framework for green banking and guarantee fund
 - **Regions for Sustainable Change**
 - **REC is the lead partner in a 12-member partnership. Explore ways to incorporate climate change in the economic and regional development plans of 12 EU regions**



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Example- Regions for Sustainable Change Project

- The project data
 - 12 partners from 8 countries
 - Oct 2008 – Sep 2011
 - Co-funded by: INTERREG IVC
 - Lead partner: REC
- The project aims
 - To promote an EU-wide shift to climate-friendly economies
 - To help European Regions on their way to a low-carbon economic of development
- Why the project is important
 - The move towards a low-carbon economy is an economic and social opportunity
 - Regions tend to focus on economic growth while lacking the experience, and practical tools needed to integrate climate change issues into policies and practices.
 - The RSC partners hope to capitalise on the regions' potential and to support them in tackling climate change



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Example - Sustainable transport



Slide title

CIVITAS

CIVITAS stands for City-VITALity-Sustainability ...or cleaner and better transport in cities

- CIVITAS is an EU initiative researching and demonstrating practical and policy-related measures that contribute to sustainable urban transport
- Since 2002, 58 European cities have benefitted from EU co-funding that helped improve their accessibility and citizens' quality of life e.g.;
 - In Stockholm, Sweden, congestion charging reduced city traffic between 2005-6 by 22%, while clean vehicle strategies increased their share of the car-fleet to 8%
 - In Bremen, Germany success was demonstrated in car-sharing where between 2002-2010, the customer base rose 56% to 5,500 users. The target is 20,000 users by 2020.
 - In Bristol, UK, freight deliveries to 70 retailers were trialled, then consolidated into a single scheme that saved them time and money, while improving citizen safety and reducing disturbance
 - In 2009, Krakow launched Poland's first ever bike rental system. It resulted in 5000 monthly journeys among 4000 users. A significant impact on its 1-2% modal share of 2003 is foreseen.
- Between 2009 and 2013, REC hosts the CIVITAS Secretariat, the central hub of the Network



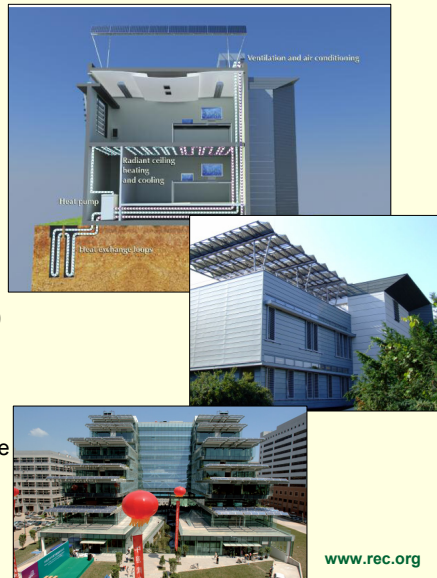
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

THE CIVITAS NETWORK IS CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

www.rec.org

Example - Zero Emission Conference Center

- The biggest *SOLAR POWER* plant in Hungary (close to 30 kW maximum capacity)
- High efficiency envelope
 - minimise heat loss in winter, prevent heat gains in summer and maximise the exploitation of natural lighting
- Lighting system
 - a „light shelf” diffuses natural light throughout the interior
- Photovoltaic
 - The PV system generates close to 30 kilowatt hours
- Heating ventilating and air-conditioning
 - Ground source heat pumps
- Architecture
 - Energy systems and architecture have been designed in a modern and integrated approach



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Example – Climate Change EC2 – Europe China Clean Energy Center

- **EC2** is a hub of excellence, providing support to the Chinese Government and key players in the energy sector, both Chinese and European. Through the transfer of state-of-the-art technologies, policy advisory services, capacity building and awareness raising, the ultimate goal of the prestigious partners in the EC2 consortium is to promote the increased use of clean energy in China, thus contributing to global sustainable development.
 - **REC activities**
 - Capacity building activities
 - E-learning course
 - Workshop in the European Parliament “Low Carbon Economy Challenges” (April 12)
 - Study Tour April - Brussels and Hungary (April 11-15)
 - Support to communication activities
 - Newsletter
 - Other communication tools



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

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**

• **Support to EU Presidencies (Italian, Netherlands, Czech, Slovenian, Hungarian):**

- Policy (background document)
- Logistic (secretariat)

• **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

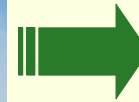
Why the REC is needed?



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY



ENERGY EFFICIENCY



ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOUR



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Environmental Education

- Education for the youngest –
 - **My Friend Boo**-Development of cartoon series for 4-7 years old children launched in 2010 -Energy conservation, renewable energy, sustainable transport
 - **Kyoto in the homes** How individuals/families in homes can contribute to the Kyoto target (EE and RES) teachers trained
- Multi-media environmental education curriculum kit – **Green Pack (GP junior)**
 - Primarily intended for secondary school teachers and their students
 - Focus on particular aspects of environmental protection and sustainable development
 - 30.000+ teachers - 3.500.000+ students - in 15 countries....
- Cross-sectoral approach – **Sustainable Development Academy**
 - A comprehensive (~ 1 month!) educational programme about the "three pillars" of sustainable development initiated by the Italian Government
 - SEE • CEE • Black Sea Region • Kazakhstan • Russia



My Friend Boo
and The Magical Carousel
Intelligent Energy Europe



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

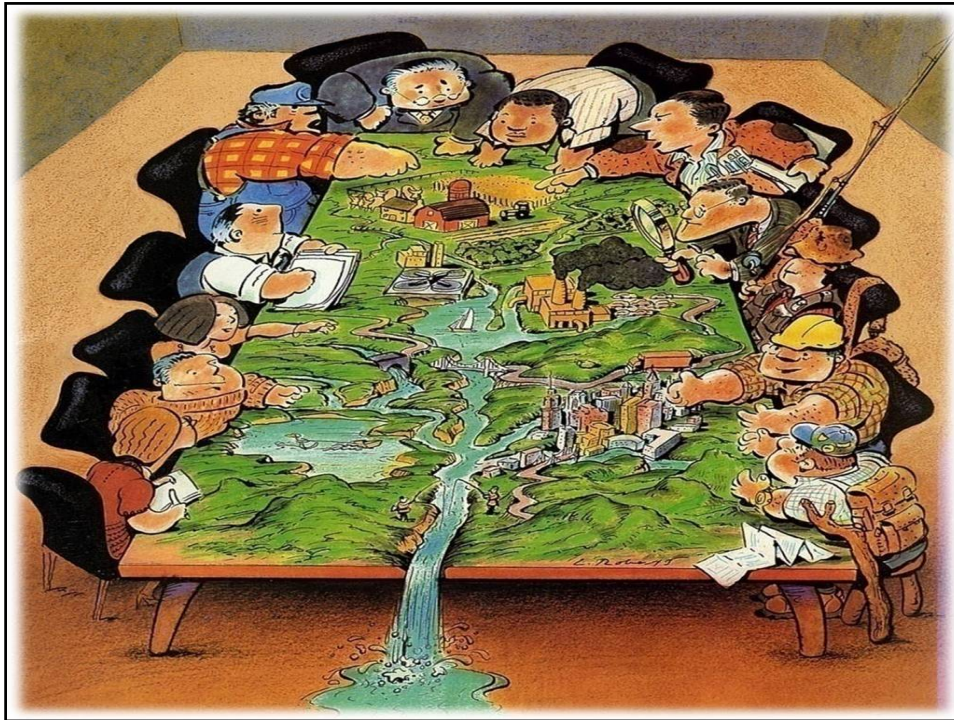
Some of the socio-economic challenges in the Danube River Basin

- Lack of public awareness about ecological needs
- Insufficient use of best available practices
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of specific expertise
 - e.g. on the development of energy efficiency and renewables
- Lack of good governance... ?!
 - Multiplicity of actors (?!)
- **Conflicting interests**



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org



Main challenges in the Danube River Basin

•Water quality

- E.g. organic or nutrient pollution

•Water quantity

- Floods and droughts

•Environmental Risks

- Baia Mare, Baia Borsa, Kolontár

•Biodiversity, natural assets

- Over exploitation of natural resources

•Unsustainable development

- Industry, urban, transport and agriculture

•Socio-economic challenges

- Lack of financial resources, lack of good governance...?!



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Sectorial integration requires....

- Political commitment
- Strategic vision
- Holistic view
- Appropriate resource allocation and division of responsibilities among partners (institutions)
- Timely and effective communication among the partners
- Adoption and implementation of mixed policy instruments
- Evaluation and lessons learned....



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

Benefits of sectorial integration ...

- New approach.....
 - Not easy to get policy makers and partners out of their ivory towers, intellectual silos
 - Requires extra time/effort to get all involved
- BUT.....
- Brings win win solution, synergy
 - It is much more cost effective
 - Bring together policy makers to work on issues belonging to other sectors



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

REC-commendations (policy)

- **Strengthening transboundary water cooperation** inside the EU and transferring lessons learned to other regions
 - Simultaneous implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention
 - Linking to other sectoral policies e.g.:
 - Agricultural Policy (integrating water in the CAP reform)
 - National forest programs and biodiversity strategies
- **Interlinking integrated water resource management** with ecosystems becoming entirely part of water infrastructure
- **Hydro-solidarity** between upstream and downstream countries/regions
- Increasing efforts in **water-related capacity building** for national and local institutions

**We have (globally, nationally and.....) the knowledge and the technology but we need minds, hands and feet to take action.
LEADER(SHIP/SIFT)**

We offer as REC, based on our experience, our contribution to help to take the next transformational steps – help to make policy to action



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org

~~“Act before it’s too late!”~~

BECAUSE



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

www.rec.org