



REC • For a Sustainable Future
25 Years • 1990-2015

Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development

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Executive Director
2016



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

About the Regional Environmental Center

- The REC was established in 1990 by USA, Hungary and the European Commission to enhance cooperation among the key stakeholders and address environmental issues in the region
- The REC has 25+ years of experience in supporting the stakeholders in CEE in:
 - transition to democracy and market economy;
 - accessing the European Union;
 - moving towards sustainable development and green growth
- The REC has implemented over 4.000+ projects with total budget of over 260+ MEUR through multi-stakeholder partnerships



The REC today...

- is an **international organisation** with head office located in Szentendre, Hungary;
- is legally based on a **charter signed by 32 countries and the European Commission**;
- has a Board of Directors with international members;
- has a **regional presence** and offices in CEE with an international staff of approx. 160 employees;
- runs projects in EU Member States (in CEE and EU-28); EU Enlargement Countries; Eastern Partnership Countries; and beyond
- The REC has **25 years of experience** in supporting the stakeholders in CEE

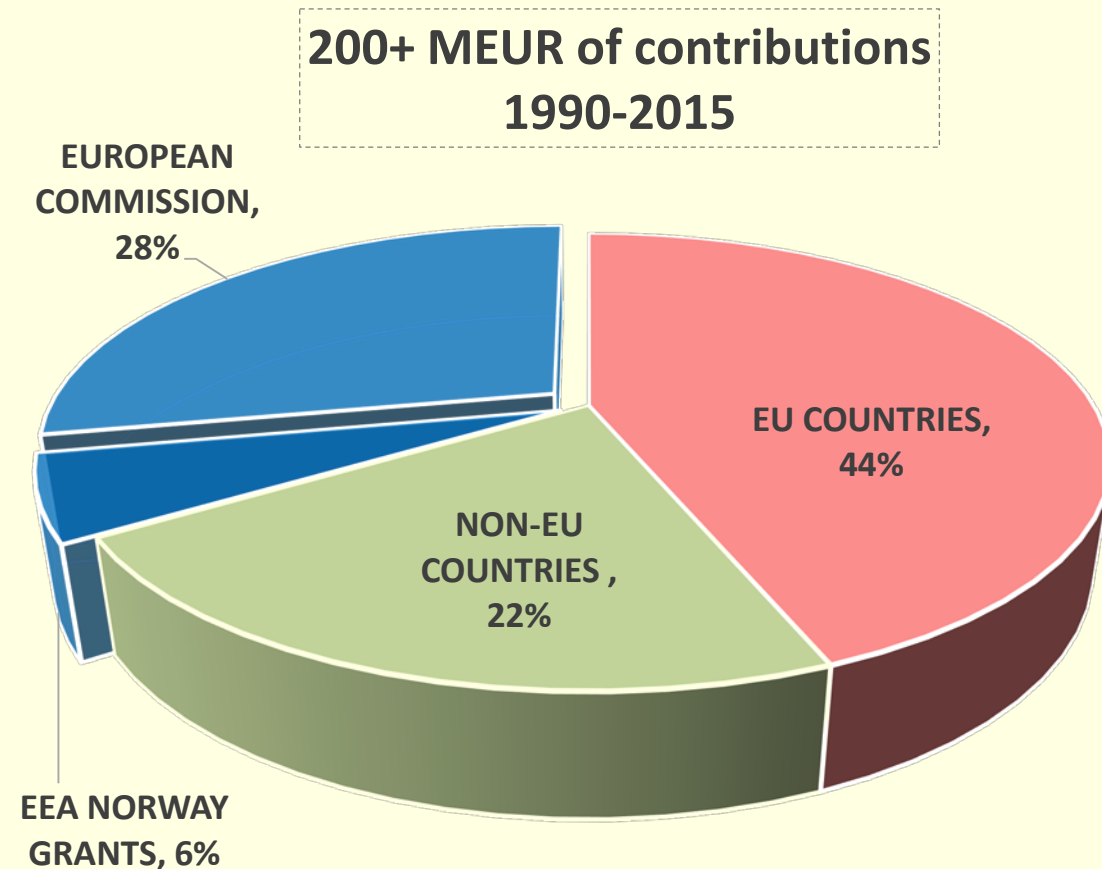


Funding sources

REC is 100% project-financed with annual turnover 10-12 MEUR

Largest contributions to the REC for the period 1990-2015 made by:

- EEA and Norway Grants
- European Commission
- Finland
- Hungary
- Italy
- Japan
- Sweden
- Norway
- The Netherlands
- USA



Board of Directors

- Jari **Vilen**
 - **Chairman of the Board of Directors**
 - Ambassador and Head of Delegation, Delegation of the EU to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- Argent **Alltari**
 - Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Environment, Albania
- Laszlo **Borbely**
 - Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Romania, Chamber of Deputies, Romania
- Massimo **Cozzone**
 - Senior Officer, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy
- Ryo **Fujikura**
 - Professor, Hosei University, Japan
- Marie **Haga**
 - Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust, Norway
- Istvan **Joo**
 - Danube Region Strategy Ministerial Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary
- Timo **Makela**
 - Senior Advisor, Resource Wise and Carbon Neutral Society, Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA
 - former Director of Global and International Challenges, LIFE+, DG Environment, European Commission
- Laszlo **Pinter**
 - Professor and Senior Fellow, Central European University; International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada
- Hasan Z. **Sarikaya**
 - Undersecretary (retired), Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Turkey

Ex officio:

- Marta **Szigeti Bonifert**
 - Executive Director, REC



Political mandates for the work of the REC

Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the REC,
June 2015

SEE 2020 Strategy

Eastern Partnership

EU Policies

Circular and Low-Carbon Economy

Post-2015 Development Agenda



Strategy for 2016-2020

The REC works for the following results:

Strengthened
environmental
governance

Accelerated
low-emission
development

Improved
natural resources
management

with relevant stakeholders in its partner regions

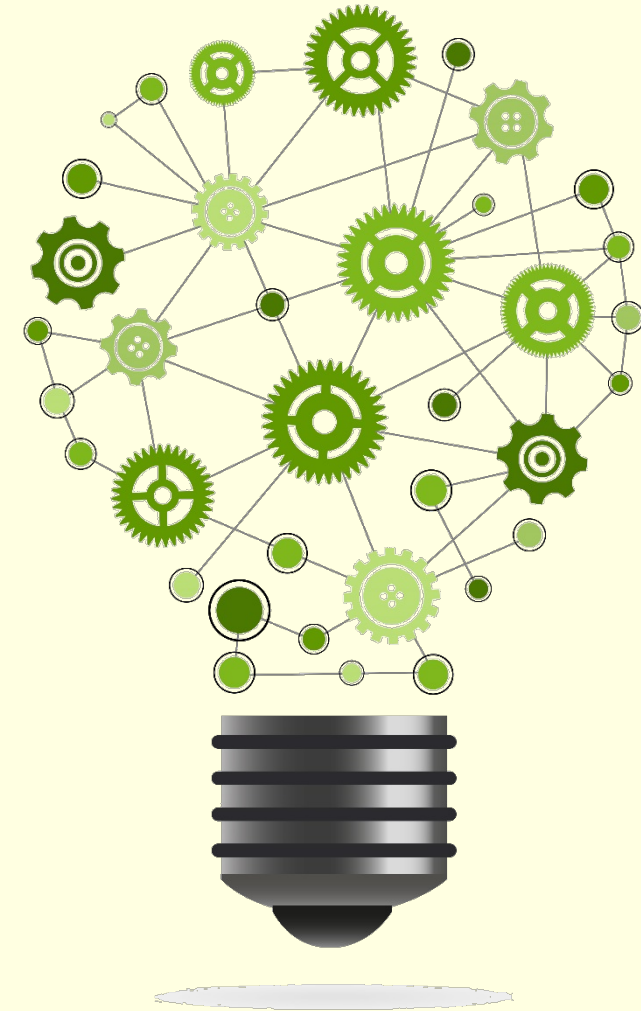


REC as a catalyst

An international organisation, the REC is like vitamin C, a **catalyst** that accelerates sustainable solutions in partnership with governments and non-governmental stakeholders.

Our projects focus on **helping communities** to strengthen environmental governance, shift to a low-carbon economy, build resilience to climate change, manage natural resources, and develop capacities for future **environmental stewardship**.

With **25 years of experience in supporting the region's transition to democracy and sustainability**, the REC is a flexible mechanism for cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond, delivering results through its office and expert network.



Supporting the “2030 SD Agenda”

- A preliminary study was undertaken in the REC to review its track record vis-à-vis the SDGs and their targets. The exercise shows an **overlap of 17 out of 17 goals**. The REC has a track record and expertise in 28% of the targets – **47 out of the 169 targets**.
- Particularly strong areas are environmental health, education and capacity building, water management, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate mitigation and adaptation, ecosystems (natural resources), governance, and partnerships.



Climate Change and Clean Energy



Promotion of Sustainable Energies

- EU-China Clean Energy Center
 - Since 2010, facilitating cooperation between China and the EU in the field of clean, sustainable energy and GHG emission mitigation, through the Center set in Beijing

Promotion of Low-Carbon Society

- Low Carbon South East Europe (LOC SEE)
 - Development of a systematic cross-sector approach to low-carbon policies for the reduction of GHG emissions and creation of a low-carbon SEE region
- Regions for Sustainable Change
 - REC was the lead partner in a 12-member partnership incorporating climate change adaptation into the economic and regional development plans of 12 EU regions; promoting Europe-wide shift to climate-friendly economies
- Supporting Low-emission Development in South Eastern Europe (SLED)
 - Introduced on December 5 at the EU Pavilion UNFCCC COP 21 Paris



Rivers in focus: highlights



The Danube

- NGO Participation in the Danube River Basin Management Plans
- Building Environmental Citizenship to Support Transboundary Pollution Reduction /Pilot Project in Hungary and Slovenia
- Danube National & Regional Grants
- Enhancing Access to Information and Public participation in Environmental Decision Making, Danube Regional Project

Tisza river

- Tisza River Basin Integrated SD Programme
- Tisza follow-up grants - NGO workshop: response in crisis situation

Sava and Drina

- Support to the International Sava Basin Commission Initiative
- Enhancing crossborder cooperation in the Drina River Basin



Building Local Community Resilience in the Western Balkans

Building Local Community Resilience for Sustainable Development in International Watersheds, such as the Drini/Drina river (CRESSIDA)

- The project includes **local governments from the countries sharing the watersheds**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia
- the main goal is to create a flexible and easily replicable **living laboratory** for pilot sustainability tools and practices
- launched in 2014 with the financial support of the US Environmental Protection Agency (budget 460.000 EUR for 2014-2019)



• **CRESSIDA**



Environment and Health: highlights

SINPHONIE: School Indoor Pollution and Health Observatory Network in Europe

- a complex research project covering the areas of **health, environment, transport and climate change**
- aims at improving **air quality in schools and kindergartens**
- the project was implemented under a European Commission service contract (DG Sanco)
- 36 environment and health institutions from 25 countries involved

SEARCH: School Environmental and Respirator Health of Children

- **Implementing the EU Environment and Health Strategy**, Action Plan and the CEHAPE through both active involvement in European processes and the development of efficient instruments and tools for multi-stakeholder cooperation



Sustainable Resource Use: highlights

- REC supports the development of new environmental policies, strategies and initiatives, and also the analysis and evaluation of existing ones on European, national and local level.
- Key areas:
 - resource efficiency; waste and circular economy; industrial emissions / sustainable production; and eco-innovation
- Selected activities:
 - Cases of implementing resource efficient policies by the EU industry (Client: DG ENV)
 - Review of the Eco-innovation Action Plan (Client: EC, DG ENV)
 - Towards zero waste in industrial networks (ZeroWIN) - a large, 5-year research project on sustainable industrial network and industrial symbiosis (Client: EC)
 - Analysis of certain waste streams and the potential of Industrial Symbiosis to promote waste as a resource for EU industry (Client: EC, DG Enterprise and Industry)
 - European Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ETC/SCP) - support to the EEA
 - Public Procurement of Innovation Platform – support to public authorities, procurers, policy makers, researchers (EC)



Smart Cities and Mobility

- Strategic Areas of Interest
 - Cleaner and Better Transport in Cities
 - Secretariat services to European Mobility Week and formerly the CIVITAS Initiative
 - Szentendre Bike-share Scheme Feasibility Study
 - Smarter Cities
 - Secretariat services to KIC InnoEnergy
 - Smart Cities and Communities Information System
 - SMART Move; Grow Smarter
 - Technology Development and Know-how Transfer
 - Company travel planning and monitoring mobility behavior
 - Information provision
 - SEiSMiC - Societal Engagement in Science, Mutual Learning in Cities
 - Traffic Snake Game Network
 - Partnerships
 - European Commission; EIT; EEA; UNECE; Morgan Stanley



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



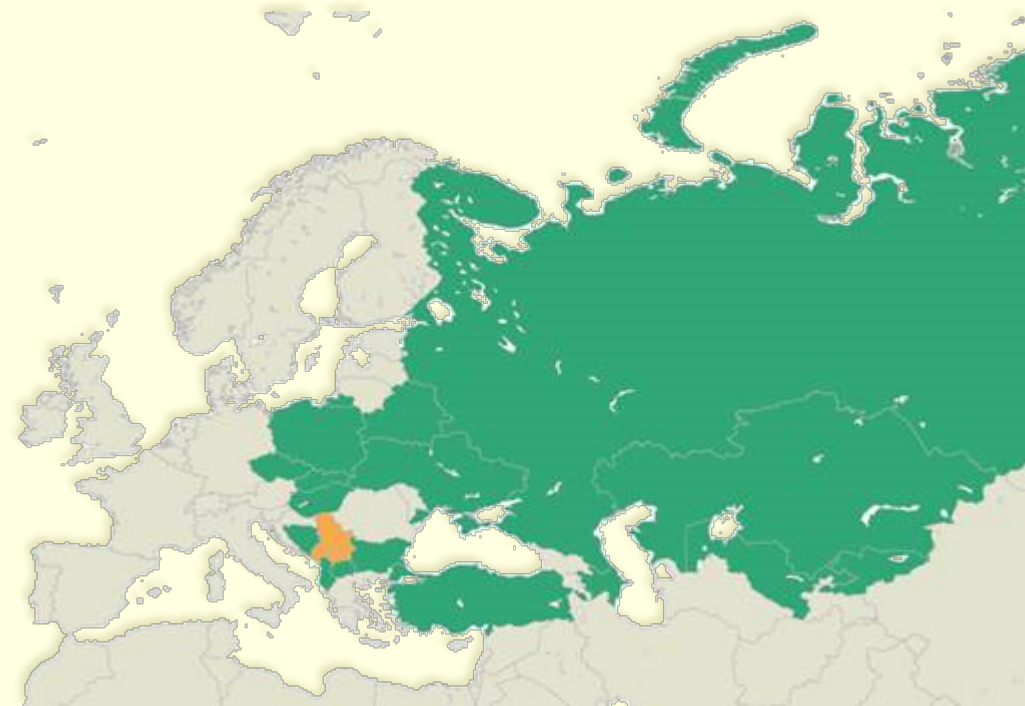
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



REC tools and programmes for ESD:

- **Green Pack** and **Green Pack Junior** multimedia educational tools for school teachers and pupils, launched in total 18 countries and 20 languages for 40.000 school teachers and 4.5 million pupils
- **Green Steps** for civil society organisations and families
- **Sustainable Development Academy** for government officials and the business community
- **Tom Garvey Young Environmental Leaders Programme** for interns and fellows within the REC office network

The pictures illustrate the REC Green Pack and a map of REC ESD programmes. The Green Pack was selected in the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Nagoya, Japan, November 2014, among one of the world's best educational tools for sustainability.

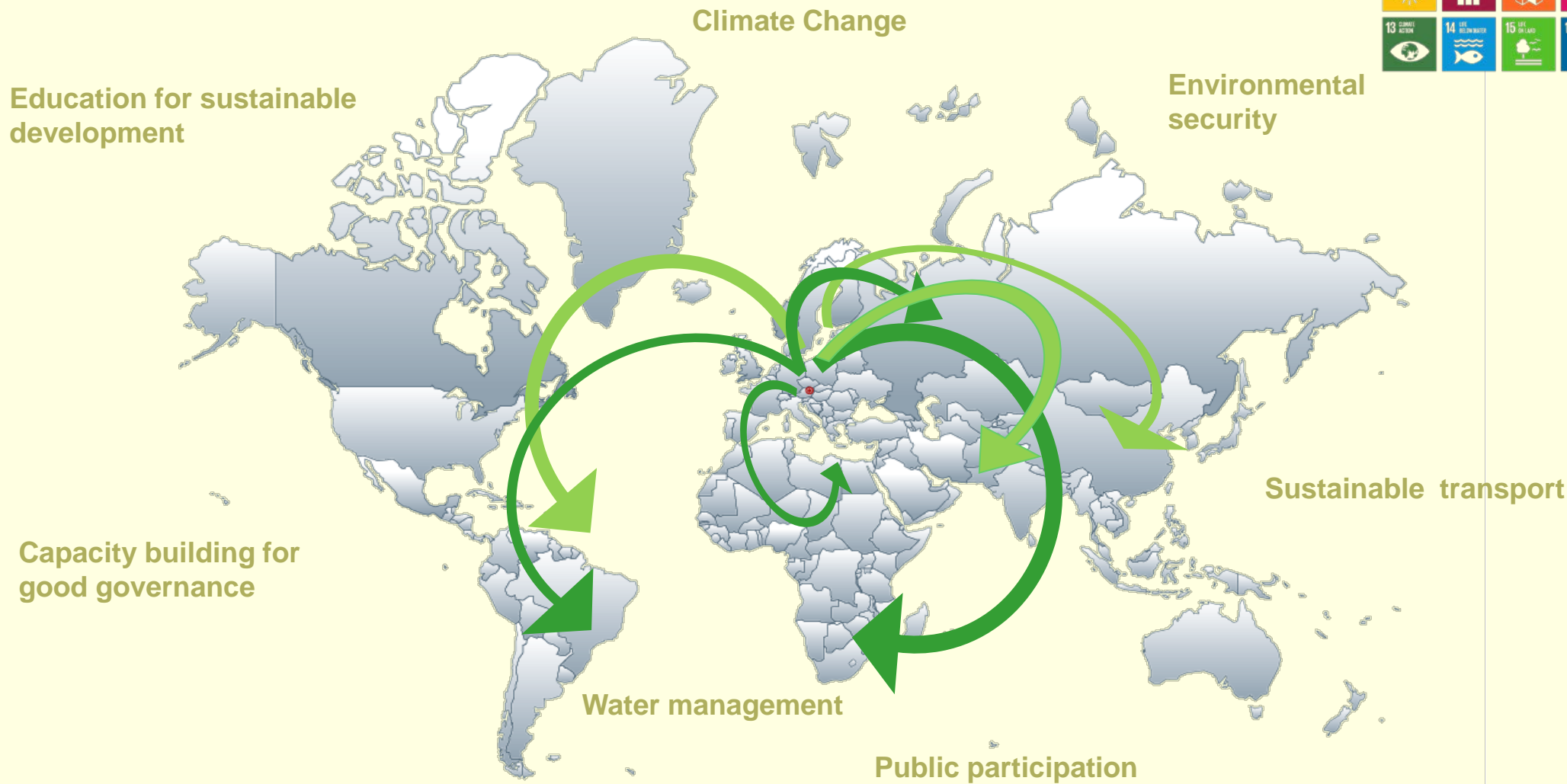


SEEDLING

- The SEEDLING project aims to strengthen education, capacity building and awareness raising of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the region of South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia) by developing an online educational tool, and by means of regional cooperation and networking among decision makers, educators and teachers.
- The project will be implemented in the upcoming three-year period, until November 2018, in three phases:
 - Support of country-level educational reforms
 - Development of online ESD tool for secondary schools
 - Increase students' knowledge about job-creation opportunities via implementation of small-scale school projects



REC – Transfer of lessons learned



REC in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

- ENVSEC Initiative - **reduction of environment and security risks** through strengthened cooperation in four regions: Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and South Eastern Europe
 - Focus areas: natural resources; climate change; hazardous substances; information and participation
 - **REC hosts ENVSEC Regional Desk for South Eastern Europe**
- REC chaired ENVSEC in 2013 and 2014



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RESULTS EMPOWERMENT CHANGE

Follow the REC on:



@RECstream



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www.rec.org