Adaptation to Climate Change in Hungary

The aim of the EEA Grants is to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen bilateral relations with 15 EU countries within the European Economic Area (EEA). Funding from the EEA in Hungary is channelled through several programme areas. The REC was the EEA Grants Fund Operator for the Adaptation to Climate Change programme within the 2009–2014 Financial Mechanism. As fund operator, the REC launched public consultations, published calls for proposals, monitored technical and financial implementation, and disbursed payments. Ten projects were awarded.
OBJECTIVES
The programme aimed to promote a clear understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability in Hungary; encourage actions to improve climate resilience at local level; and share examples of projects that contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change. The programme contributed to establishing a system to:
- provide a sound basis for identifying adaptation options at different levels in Hungary;
- heighten awareness of adaptation efforts in Hungary;
- mobilise and empower stakeholders and local-level decision makers;
- inform and empower actors to develop and implement local strategies;
- strengthen climate resilience based on knowledge of local impacts and vulnerabilities; and
- show replicable examples of resilience enhancement at local and regional level.

ACTIVITIES
Four calls for proposals were published for climate-related projects in the range of EUR 170,000 to 800,000. The main target groups were public institutions, local and regional governments, universities, research institutes, businesses and NGOs.

Details of the 10 awarded projects, with a summary of aims and activities in each case, can be found on the project website.

The programme had three main components:
- The National Adaptation Geoinformatic System (NAGiS). Five projects were included in this component, aimed at developing a geoinformation system to facilitate policy making, strategy building and decision making on adaptation measures in Hungary at local, regional and national level.
- Local climate change adaptation capacity building. Two projects were implemented in this component to build the capacities of local authorities, local decision makers and local stakeholders on climate change adaptation.
- Pilot projects focusing on climate change adaptation measures at local and regional level. Three pilot projects were implemented, addressing water retention potential, water run-off and water scarcity in the region.

The programme also fostered cooperation between the donor states and Hungarian entities and contributed to strengthening bilateral relations, including in the field of adaptation to climate change. Several bilateral cooperation activities were implemented at project and programme level, which have led to long-term cooperation between stakeholders from the donor and beneficiary states.