WHY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The concept of sustainable development emerged in the early 1970s in response to concerns that economic development had failed to consider its impact on natural resources, the environment, and many social groups. The Brundtland Report was the first well-documented research paper to highlight the three fundamental components of sustainable development: environmental protection, economic growth, and social equity.

Ultimately, sustainable development means improving people’s quality of life in a way that maintains the capacity of the planet over the long term. Human security, prosperity, and wellbeing depend on a healthy and abundant environment. The sustainable use of natural resources, pollution prevention, and conservation of natural habitats are central to achieving peace and ensuring the future.

To help make developments sustainable, international processes have been initiated to produce synergy from the efforts of the international community and individual countries. The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 resulted in a global plan of action for sustainable development: Agenda 21. Ten years later, Johannesburg 2002 provided an opportunity to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets to better implement Agenda 21.

While international cooperation will set the framework for action, much of the work needs to be implemented at the national and local levels by individual countries. Recommendations have been made for developed and developing nations regarding sustainable development strategies for energy, clean air and water, water supplies, land use, housing, water treatment, transport, healthcare, and more equitable access to opportunities and resources. Following through requires a concerted and coordinated approach to policymaking.

WHY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE?

The European Union’s expansion into Central and Eastern Europe demands major changes in policy and programming at various levels. The adoption of the EU’s Sustainable Development Strategy, coupled with the Sixth Environmental Action Plan and Gothenburg Strategy, represents an overarching opportunity and challenge for European countries and their policymakers. How to proceed is a contemporary problem, particularly for those ministries and agencies that have little experience with environmental and social issues.

Given their transition and integration into the European Union, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) have many advantages, as well as hindrances, on the path to sustainability. The transition and accession processes have allowed them to establish institutions and laws that respect the environment, promote participatory decision-making, and use the emerging civil society to promote environmentally and socially sound habits. Furthermore, economic restructuring has helped streamline production, reduce public subsidies, and conserve raw materials. At the same time, the countries of this region face numerous challenges, such as the impact of globalization on traditional lifestyles, growing consumerist behavior, dependence on external markets and financial instability. Governments must consider all of these factors when planning for sustainability.

Sustainable development is progressive social betterment without growing beyond ecological carrying capacity. Growth means getting bigger while development means getting better.

— Herman Daly, American academic and former senior economist in the Environment Department of the World Bank
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WHY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE?
The European Union’s expansion into Central and Eastern Europe demands major changes in policy and programming in all sectors. The adoption of the EU’s Sustainable Development Strategy, coupled with the Sixth Environmental Action Plan and Gothenburg Strategy, represents an overarching opportunity and challenge for European countries and their policymakers. How to proceed is a contemporary problem, particularly for those ministries and agencies that have little experience with environmental and social issues.

Given their transition and integration into the European Union, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) have many advantages, as well as hindrances, on the path to sustainability. The transition and accession processes have allowed them to establish institutions and laws that respect the environment, promote participatory decision-making, and use emerging civil society to promote environmentally and socially sound practices. However, the impact of globalization on traditional lifestyles, growing consumerist behaviors, dependence on external markets and natural resources, environmental degradation, and social and political instability require coordinated policies and actions.

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Ultimately, sustainable development means improving people's quality of life in a way that maintains the capacity of the planet over the long term. Human security, prosperity, and wellbeing depend on a healthy and abundant environment. The sustainable use of natural resources, pollution prevention, and conservation of nature habitats are central in achieving justice and improving the quality of life.

To help make development sustainable, international processes have been initiated to produce synergy from the efforts of the international community and individual countries. The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 resulted in a global plan of action for sustainable development: Agenda 21. Ten years later, Johannesburg 2002 provided an opportunity to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets to better implement Agenda 21.

While international cooperation will set the framework for action, much of the work needs to be implemented at the national and local levels by individual countries. Recommendations have been made for developed and developing nations regarding sustainable development strategies for energy, clean air, water, water supplies, land use, housing, waste treatment, transport, healthcare, and more equitable access to opportunities and resources. Following through requires a concerted and coordinated approach to policymaking.

Why Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern Europe?

The European Union’s expansion into Central and Eastern Europe demands major changes in policy and programming at all levels. The adoption of the EU’s Sustainable Development Strategy and the sixth environmental action plan represents an opportunity to address environmental and social issues that have been neglected in the past.

Given their transition and integration into the European Union, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are at a critical juncture. The transition and accession processes have allowed them to establish institutions and laws that respect the environment, promote participatory decision-making, and use emerging civil society to promote environmentally and socially sound habits and practices. Furthermore, economic restructuring has helped streamline production, reduce public subsidies, and conserve raw materials. At the same time, the countries of this region face numerous challenges, such as the impact of globalization on traditional lifestyles, growing consumerist behavior, dependence on external markets and social instability. Governments must consider all of these factors when planning for sustainability.

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**About the Course**

The Course for Sustainability in Emerging Democratic Transition (CEU) and the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in Central and Eastern Europe (REC), co-sponsored by Agroinnova and Central European University (CEU) and capacities of key senior government officials in the target countries to ensure that the policies and programs of their governments are more sustainable—environmentally, developmentally, and environmentally—become part of a high-level network of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, and Romania; Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. To ensure that the various dimensions of sustainability are built into their policymaking and, to gain an overview of possible approaches.

To date, the Course for Sustainability has graduated more than 200 students. The fourth course will build on the successes of the previous courses and provide additional support. The course is comprised of five modules. The first and fifth are mandatory, and participants are expected to attend both. The first module, held at the REC head office in Szentendre, Hungary, introduces the concept of sustainable development and the various policy and governance tools used in its implementation. The second module, focusing on rural development and natural resources, is held in Venice. The fifth and final module delves deeper into the existing government structures and competencies for sustainable development; and gains an overview of possible approaches. The course is open to students from countries experiencing emerging and transitioning economies. The course is open to students from countries experiencing emerging and transitioning economies. A limited number of scholarships are available to support participants from countries in transition.

**Course Partners**

Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea participates in several international projects and is a key partner in the Course for Sustainability. It provides financial support and facilitates the integration of the course into the Italian higher education system. It also promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices among students and faculty from participating universities.

**The Regional Environmental Center**

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) was established in 1990 by the United States and the governments of central and eastern Europe. It operates in the region with the support of the United States government and international organizations, such as the European Commission. The mission of the REC is to manage higher education and training in environmental science and technology and to provide financial support to students and institutions in the region.

**Agroinnova**

Agroinnova was established in 2002 at the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands. It is an international association comprised of 10 universities (Boston College, Delft University of Technology, Guelph University, Hebrew University, Humboldt University, Brunel University, Jiaotong University, Linköping University, MONASH University, and Waseda University) and non-university organizations, such as the European Commission and Hungary. The mission of Agroinnova is to manage higher education and training in environmental science and technology and to provide financial support to students and institutions in the region.

**Central European University**

Central European University (CEU) is an internationally recognized institution of post-graduate education in social sciences and humanities. It serves as an advanced center for the region’s next generation of leaders and scholars. CEU seeks to contribute to the development of open societies in the region by promoting the exchange of knowledge and ideas among students, faculty, and alumni from the region and beyond. CEU’s mission is to promote the development of open societies in the region by promoting the exchange of knowledge and ideas among students, faculty, and alumni from the region and beyond. CEU’s mission is to promote the development of open societies in the region by promoting the exchange of knowledge and ideas among students, faculty, and alumni from the region and beyond.

**Italian Trust Fund**

The Italian Trust Fund was established in 2001 as a targeted funding instrument of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. It provides financial support to students and institutions in the region to manage higher education and training in environmental science and technology and to provide financial support to students and institutions in the region.

**Course Content**

The course is designed to build the capacity of students to manage higher education and training in environmental science and technology and to provide financial support to students and institutions in the region. The course is open to students from countries experiencing emerging and transitioning economies. A limited number of scholarships are available to support participants from countries in transition.

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The Course for Sustainability is run by Venice International Central and Eastern Europe (REC), with the support of Agroinova and Central European University (CEU) and capacities of key senior government officials in the target countries. Funding from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. As its overall goal, the course aims to enhance the countries’ capacities to ensure that the policies and programs of other authorities needed to implement sustainable development; learn how to build substance into their policymaking on sustainable urban settlements; and ensure that the policies and programs of other authorities needed to implement sustainable development.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally incorporated in Hungary. The centre has extensive facilities including laboratories, offices, and seminar rooms. It is an international organization, with headquarters in Venice, Italy and an office in Szentendre, Hungary. It receives many grants from private companies. It also receives assistance from non-governmental organizations, such as the European Commission. The REC provides a platform for dialogue while preparing its graduates to serve as the regional environmental leaders.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC serves as the regional environmental center for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It has several national and international projects in the fields of environmental field, it operates in basic and applied research, environmental protection, and public participation in decision-making.

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea was established in 2001 as a targeted trust fund to implement the Agenda 21 commitments to the international community. The Ministry is responsible for the environment, the protection of the environment, and the promotion of sustainable development.

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The course targets senior civil servants from ministries and other governmental structures and competencies for the existing governmental structures and competencies for the implementation of sustainable development policy. As its overall goal, the course aims to: enhance cooperation between countries and the European Commission, and on an international level, promote the development of open societies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (CEU) was established in 1986. With its scope of competency lie environmental problem-solving in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The REC fulfills this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses, and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the European Commission and the European Union.

The Italian Trust Fund was established in 2001 as a targeted international organization with the aim of reducing environmental risks, pollution and industrial risks, territory protection, pollution and industrial risks.

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea funds the Italian Trust Fund to the REC. It operates within the framework of international cooperation in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe. The Italian Trust Fund supports the activities of the REC, including the development of educational programs, and the exchange of information and international cooperation.

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The REC is an international organization with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe. The REC is committed to promoting cooperation among non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses, and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the European Commission and the European Union.
The course is co-organized by five universities. The first and second modules aim to consolidate the knowledge on sustainable development, the various policy and governance tools used in its implementation, and the methods and techniques involved. These modules take place in Szentendre, Hungary, in the fifth and final module delves deeper into rural development and natural resources. All other modules take place at VIU, on the island of San Servolo in Venice. The fifth and final module delves deeper into rural development and natural resources. All other modules take place at VIU, on the island of San Servolo in Venice. The fifth and final module delves deeper into rural development and natural resources. All other modules take place at VIU, on the island of San Servolo in Venice.

To date, the Course for Sustainability has graduated more than 150 alumni from three rounds held in 2004, 2005, and 2006. The fourth course will build on the successes of the first three. Running from October 2006 to July 2007, the course will welcome a total of 60 participants.

The course partners are the University of Vienna (VIU) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) established in 1986. With its scope of competency lie environmental problem solving in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. REC operates with financial support from the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea to the REC. It operates within the framework of the European Commission’s ENV-Net program and serves as a platform for national and regional environmental organizations, such as the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), and of the European Environmental Foundation (Eef), and of the European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH). The REC’s mission is to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in the form of more open societies. In response to this spreading democratic movement, the University of Vienna continues to focus on the promotion of education in which ideas are creatively, critically, and comparatively examined.

The centre has extensive facilities including laboratories, pilot and field research and demonstration projects. The course is taught in English and is aimed primarily at individuals and organizations in the region while extending the CEU Fellowship Program worldwide, with emphasis on non-EU countries.

The following table shows the key dates for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Analysis</td>
<td>Szentendre, Hungary</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Development and Natural Resources</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
<td>2 weeks, June 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Development and Natural Resources</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
<td>2 weeks, June 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability, in Practice</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
<td>1 week, July 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Introduction and Analysis</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Rural Development</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The programme is open to all professionals working in the environment, nature conservation, energy, waste management, rural development, and natural resources. The course is intended for individuals and organizations such as the European Commission, experts involved in the development and implementation of sustainable development policies, and environmental professionals from VIU, the REC, environmental NGOs, and other environmental stakeholders, and businesses which are involved in the implementation of sustainable development policies.

The course aims to enhance the contribution of the course participants to ensure that the policies and programs of their organizations become part of a high-level network of organizations involved in the implementation of sustainable development policies.

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CONTACTS

COURSES, INSTITUTIONS AND APPLICATIONS

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Funded by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea