Learning to Change
Capacity building at the Sustainable Development Academy
The Regional Environmental Center (REC) promotes cooperation among governments, NGOs, businesses and other stakeholders, and supports the free exchange of information, public participation in environmental decision making and the sustainable development of society.

As part of the REC’s activities to promote the sustainable development concept, the Sustainable Development Academy implements a variety of educational, capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes, including:

- the establishment of high-level ESD working groups involving government officials and national experts;
- research on school curricula and educational standards in order to identify national strengths, weaknesses and needs in relation to promoting ESD in the school system, followed by the development of national ESD action plans that reflect UN standards and recommendations;
- the adaptation and upgrading of school curricula based on identified needs and in the context of specific ESD challenges in the target countries;
- the development of interdisciplinary and interactive multimedia ESD tools;
- the organisation of local train-the-trainer courses followed by comprehensive teacher training programmes on ESD at national level in the target countries; and
- support to awareness-raising activities to promote ESD at national level.

The Sustainable Development Academy offers courses for high-level officials from national institutions in order to build the capacities of key decision makers and to forge partnerships between these groups and academia.

As part of its ESD activities, a series of educational tools have been developed, customised and implemented in more than 20 countries in Europe and Asia. Since 2001, around 50,000 teachers and over 5 million students have been educated, fundamentally changing the way in which the teaching of sustainability is approached.

Each project has been developed in cooperation with governments, professional organisations, businesses and NGOs in order to foster community support across a broad spectrum of society.

In Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia, the REC has supported ESD reforms in the educational system in line with the global trend of outcome-based learning, including changes in educational standards and course content; the implementation of cross-curricular ESD themes and topics; and the fostering of values and proactive behaviour that support the sustainable development of society. Research will be carried out with the aim of expanding educational reforms to additional countries in South Eastern Europe.

The REC’s Sustainable Development Academy directly contributes to the 2013 UNESCO Global Action Plan on ESD and facilitates the achievement of the UN SDGs by building capacity in relation to the UN 2030 Agenda.

We extend sincere thanks to the following donors, partners and supporters:

- **International organisations**: EC LIFE Third Countries Programme; EuropeAid; GEF; OSCE; UNESCO; UNDP.
- **Governmental organisations from donor countries**: Austrian Development Agency; Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; Ministry of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; Ministries of the Environment of Finland, Sweden and Norway; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- **Governmental organisations from recipient countries**: Ministries of Education and Ministries of the Environment of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovó*, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine; Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management; Slovak Environmental Fund.
- **Regional organisations**: Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety of St. Petersburg; Ministry of Education of Moscow Region; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Komi Republic; Prague Municipality.
- **Business and private donors**: British Petroleum (BTC-SCP); Bosch; Coca-Cola; Chevron; IDE; Mitsubishi Foundation; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Titan; Toyota Motor Corporation.
- **Our sister organisation**: the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC); Agroinovna; Venice International University; educational organisations, NGOs and universities from throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States; countless contributors worldwide.

Their understanding and trust have provided encouragement throughout 16 years of hard work on a growing line of interactive multimedia tools and ESD-related services.

The REC’s innovative programmes and products have received global recognition in several international processes as examples of good practice in the field of ESD.

- Within the framework of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (2014) the Green Pack was selected as one of 25 good ESD practices globally.
- In the evaluation report “10 Years of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, 2005–2015”, presented at the Eighth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (2016), the programme “ESD in the Western Balkans: Education for Sustainable Futures” and the Green Pack were selected as best practice examples for the decade.

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Green Pack
Green Pack is a multimedia environmental educational tool that promotes the development of sustainable development. The toolkit, which has 2000 topics and includes a teachers’ guide, regional and country manuals, and a multimedia CD-ROM, is designed to be used in a variety of educational settings and age groups.

Since the programme was launched in 2004, Green Pack has been introduced in 15 countries, including Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the Western Balkans to integrate sustainable development concepts into the educational curricula. The aim is to fundamentally change pupils’ attitudes and knowledge, and to enable them to take action and change their behaviour to support sustainable development.

The materials are designed to reach out to students and teachers through a variety of interactive and engaging activities, such as role-playing, brainstorming, and outdoor activities. The toolkit covers a wide range of topics, including environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, the sustainable use of natural resources, climate change, and sustainable development in general.

The toolkit is designed to be used in a variety of educational settings, including classrooms, schools, and communities. It is adaptable to different age groups and educational needs, and can be used by teachers to support the development of sustainable development in their students.

Green Pack Phase 2
Since the launch of Green Pack Phase 2 in 2012, the REC has been working with ministries of education in SEE countries, with the aim of expanding the scope of educational reforms. This phase focuses on the implementation of concrete actions by schools, either in response to the Operationalisation of the ESD Policy by the Russian Federation, or as examples of best practice in SEE countries, as mentioned in an UNECE report.

Beyond Green Pack
In 2011, the REC launched the Green Pack Junior, a multimedia educational tool for children aged 7 to 10, which is designed to promote the development of sustainable development concepts in the early years. The toolkit includes a teachers’ guide, a country manual, and a multimedia CD-ROM, and covers a range of topics, including environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The materials are designed to support the development of sustainable development in young children, and can be used by teachers to support the development of sustainable development in their students.

Green Pack Junior
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Green Pack Junior Phase 2
In 2020, the REC launched Green Pack Junior Phase 2, a multimedia educational tool for children aged 7 to 10, which is designed to promote the development of sustainable development concepts in the early years. The toolkit includes a teachers’ guide, a country manual, and a multimedia CD-ROM, and covers a range of topics, including environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

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Green Pack Junior Phase 2
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