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How can different actions be prioritised to reach low-carbon status?

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How much will measures cost compared to alternative, non-low-carbon solutions?

In order to answer such questions, the Regions for Sustainable Change (RSC) partnership, which supports European regions in the low-carbon transition, commissioned the Analysis of the Carbon Emissions–Related Aspects of the Economies of Three European Regions for the pilot regions Cornwall (UK), Burgenland (Austria) and Marche (Italy). In the resulting ambitious and innovative study, the consultants SQW, ICLEI-Europe and Mercados EMI developed a toolkit to:

- establish a baseline for regional climate change indicators;
- examine the climate change risks faced by each region; and
- calculate the environmental and economic costs and benefits of moving towards a low-carbon economy.

The tools were designed to be transferable: other EU regions wishing to undertake a similar analysis have free access to project reports that outline the approach and methodology employed as well as the outputs delivered in the three pilot regions.
RSC: A regional response to the climate challenge

The RSC is a partnership of 12 organisations from eight EU member states. The partners share a common cause: to promote an EU-wide shift to low-carbon economic development. The three-year RSC project was launched in October 2008 and is co-funded by the EU programme INTERREG IVC, part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013.

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**Partners**

- Cornwall Council (UK)
- Wroclaw (PL)
- University of Debrecen, CEMP (HU)
- LaMoRo (IT)
- Liguria (IT)
- Marche (IT)
- Malta Environment and Planning Authority
- Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development
- Burgenland Regional Management (AT)
- Cornwall Development Company (UK)
- La Rioja (ES)
- Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

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**www.rscproject.org**

Setting the PACE: Analysis of the Carbon Emissions–Related Aspects of the Economies of Three European Regions

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Made possible by the INTERREG IVC Programme
The various elements of the toolkit, as shown here, can be applied either individually or in combination. Where the toolkit is applied as a whole, regional stakeholders need to first review the baseline position and potential risks and identify measures that represent the most interesting and useful scenarios for inclusion in the analysis. The measures chosen should respond to the particular risks and opportunities in the region and may encompass a wide range of regional initiatives, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation and carbon sequestration.

The comparison tool has been constructed in such a way as to allow regions maximum flexibility in changing the scale and timing of the proposal. Ideally, the assessment of each measure should draw on the most accurate and most locally applicable data to provide information on the costs of the measure and its impact on regional carbon and jobs over its lifetime.

Interpretation of the results is facilitated by the automatically generated graphs, which make it possible to identify and select the most advantageous measures without requiring an in-depth understanding of the complex calculations behind the tools. The graphs are also an ideal means for promoting and disseminating results.

All outputs from the Analysis of the Carbon Emissions–Related Aspects of the Economies of Three European Regions are available on the RSC website at www.rscproject.org/PACE
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