The REC is an innovative, friendly and professional group of people who are aiming for some really great goals agreed in the work plans. Not only dreaming about them, but implementing them.

Jaakko Henttonen, Chair of the REC Board of Directors, 2009 to 2012

CONTACTS
Business Development Unit ■ bdu@rec.org | Office of the Chief of Staff ■ ocs@rec.org
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
Ady Endre ut 9–11 ■ 2000 Szentendre ■ Hungary ■ Tel: +36 26 504 000

www.rec.org  @RECstream

Accelerating sustainable solutions in Central and Eastern Europe
The Regional Environmental Center was established in 1990 by the United States of America, the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of Hungary as co-founders, to assist the transition process in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and to contribute to environmental democracy building and cooperative problem solving within the environmental sector.

The REC is an international organisation and its legal status is based on a charter with 32 signatories to date, and on the International Agreement that entered into force in 2012. Originally set up through political will as a foundation and mandated as a grant-giving, mission-driven organisation, the REC has evolved since its foundation into a fully project based organisation. The REC’s 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.

As an independent, non-partisan, non-advocacy and non-profit international organisation, the REC has become a model for open, transparent, efficient and accountable international cooperation in Europe and beyond. With over 25 years of dedicated service 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. Its head office is located in Hungary.

“The REC will continue to maintain its mission and focus, supporting its beneficiaries and responding to stakeholders’ needs in a spirit of innovation, strengthening solutions in the context of EU Neighbourhood Policy and EU Enlargement countries, and responding to the challenges arising from the implementation of these frameworks.”

Mihail Dimovski, Executive Director of the REC
The REC actively participates in key global, regional and local processes and contributes to environmental and sustainability solutions, transferring transitional knowledge and experience to countries and regions. It has an impressive record in capacity building and policy dialogue with environmental stakeholders, developing and promoting tools and good practices for sustainable development and for public/stakeholder involvement, implementing ministerial mandates and contributing to international processes. Through its projects and programmes, the REC provides good-quality data for decision makers, disseminates information, builds the capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders, and facilitates active public participation in policy making.

The REC promotes and facilitates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting democratic, inclusive and sustainable societies and regional cooperation. The REC’s mission, mandates and strategies position the organisation as a neutral platform and catalyst for accelerating sustainable solutions in partnership with governments and non-governmental stakeholders. The REC has a strong regional presence, and the ability to work in local languages and contexts, as well as established networks of high-level officials and experts.

The REC continuously endeavours to create strategic partnerships with international organisations, institutions and bodies, in order to best match the available expertise to environmental problems and needs in an internationally coordinated manner.

Recent donors are the European Commission, the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), the United Nations, the governments of Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as other international organisations, banks and businesses.

A constant of the REC’s existence and its defining trait over its 25-year history is the capacity to use experiences and strengths and turn them into innovative and far-reaching processes.

Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council
The REC’s regional presence is an asset for the successful implementation of its mission-driven work. With its headquarters in Hungary, the REC’s network of offices extends throughout Central and Eastern Europe, including South Eastern Europe and Turkey. Since 1990, the REC has implemented over 2,000 donor-funded projects with a total budget of over EUR 200 million. Our projects focus on environmental governance, low-carbon economy, resilience to climate change, natural resources management and environmental stewardship.

We offer a flexible mechanism for cooperation, delivering results through our office network and regional presence.

Contributions from top 10 donors 1990–2016 (EUR 124+ million, out of total contributions of EUR 220+ million)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
Since its foundation, the REC has had a mandate to assist in the development of a strong and sustainable environmental civil society. In fulfilling this mandate, the REC strives to strengthen the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) and improve their knowledge, skills, capacities, infrastructure and viability.

The REC supports the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. It contributes to regional, national and sub-national efforts to develop and implement low-emission development strategies and to build resilience to climate change.

The REC contributes to the 2013 UNESCO Global Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the UNECE Strategy on ESD, and facilitates the achievement of the UN SDGs. At the World Conference on ESD in 2014, the Green Pack educational toolkit was selected as one of 25 best ESD practices globally.

In connection with the World Health Organization’s European Environment and Health Process, the REC supports the EU Environment and Health Action Plan, the Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and the Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe.

The REC provides expertise and technical assistance for the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation at national, European and international levels. We support the development of local environmental policies using participatory planning, thus ensuring the accountability of local governments.

To help tackle the negative environmental impacts of natural resource use, the REC supports the development of national resource efficiency strategies, focusing on the sourcing of raw materials, substitution, secondary raw materials, waste as a resource, land and soil use efficiency, water as a resource, and the secondary use of biomass.

The REC facilitates the transition towards a green economy through a focus on smart cities and mobility, delivering high-quality information services and products. The REC’s experience also encompasses freight and green logistics, with specific attention to the realm of intelligent trans-European transport networks.

The REC focuses on all aspects of water resources management by providing capacity-building initiatives, neutral platforms for transboundary cooperation, and concrete technical services towards the achievement of SDG 6. Activities are implemented in the context of the integrated water resources management approach.

Our project teams work in specialised areas of expertise, which exploit the full potential of the REC office network.
The REC has made a vital contribution to the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe, to EU enlargement, and to the transition towards sustainable development in the region. The organisation has gained a reputation for accountability, independence, innovation, efficiency and effectiveness in facilitating responses to environmental challenges in Europe and beyond.

The REC has realised the hopes and aspirations of its founders and benefactors who are justly proud of its achievements...

William K. Reilly, Sixth Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Our projects, programmes and products cover the full spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the 25th anniversary of the organisation in 2015, the signatories to the REC Charter explicitly expressed their wish and support for the REC to devote its work and efforts to the implementation of the SDGs in the region and beyond.

A major challenge is the implementation of the SDGs. The REC will have a major role to play in their successful regional implementation.

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission
The REC is an innovative, friendly and professional group of people who are aiming for some really great goals agreed in the work plans. Not only dreaming about them, but implementing them.

Jaakko Henttonen, Chair of the REC Board of Directors, 2009 to 2012

CONTACTS

Business Development Unit  ■  bdu@rec.org  |  Office of the Chief of Staff  ■  ocs@rec.org

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
Ady Endre ut 9–11  ■  2000 Szentendre  ■  Hungary  ■  Tel: +36 26 504 000