

Minutes of the Meeting

2nd Annual Meeting of WG 2 Climate Change

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA)

Date: 18 November 2011, Tirana, Albania

Place: Hotel Diplomat Fashion

Time: 09:30 – 15:30

Participants: Added as an Annex 1 to the Minutes.

Official welcoming and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened by Mr. Csikós by thanking all participants for coming to the Second Annual Meeting of the WG 2 Climate Change to discuss the further implementation of the Work Plan as proposed by the RENA Team, and also to present the results of the MMD: CRF Reporter Workshop held on 16-17 November.

Ms Laureta Dibra, RENA Climate Change WG Coordinator at the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration expresses her satisfaction with the fact that the training workshop and the annual meeting were held in Albania and wished everyone a very fruitful discussion.

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Overview of Status of RENA (*Ike van der Putte, RENA Team Leader*)

Mr Van der Putte stressed to the participants the overall objective of the RENA project which is to enhance regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the field of environment in the prospect of accession to the European Union. Its purpose is to assist the European Commission in providing the Secretariat of the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) assistance to the RENA country beneficiaries. He also talked about the institutional set up and informed that the next Ministerial meeting will take place at the end of March 2012. He also mentioned project organisation, being divided among 4 working groups:

- ✓ WG 1 – Strategic Planning and Investments (*Leader Mr Mihail Dimovski (replacing Ms. Cynthia Whitehead), Co-Leader Ms. Daiva Semeniene*);
- ✓ Working Group 2 – Climate Change – (*WG Leader Mr. Imre Csikós, WG Co-Leader Mr. Ike van der Putte*);
- ✓ Working Group 3 – Cross-border Cooperation and Multilateral Agreements – (*WG Leader Ms. Daiva Semeniene, WG Co-Leader Mr Imre Csikós*);
- ✓ Working Group 4 – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession – (*WG Leader Mr. Ike van der Putte, WG Co-Leader Mr. Imre Csikós*).

Mr Van der Putte informed the participants about the numerous initiatives, workshops and trainings within the different working groups. Additionally, the project team has established contacts with other initiatives and projects with the activities similar to the activities of RENA in order to establish better coordination of activities, in particular with the Environment Forum Project and Support to IFI Coordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey project, other EU initiatives and projects, such as DABLAS, HORIZON 2020, WBIF, as well as UNDP, and IMPEL.

With regard to the involvement of the NGO community, the project established cooperation on three levels:

- ✓ Participation of EF project representatives at the annual meeting of RENA Working Groups and Ministerial meeting;
- ✓ Nomination of mirror coordinators by the EF project that will collaborate closely with RENA WG coordinators on further collaboration and participation in the activities defined in RENA Work Plan.
- ✓ Possibility for engagement of experts from the NGOs under EF project for conducting specific activities under RENA.

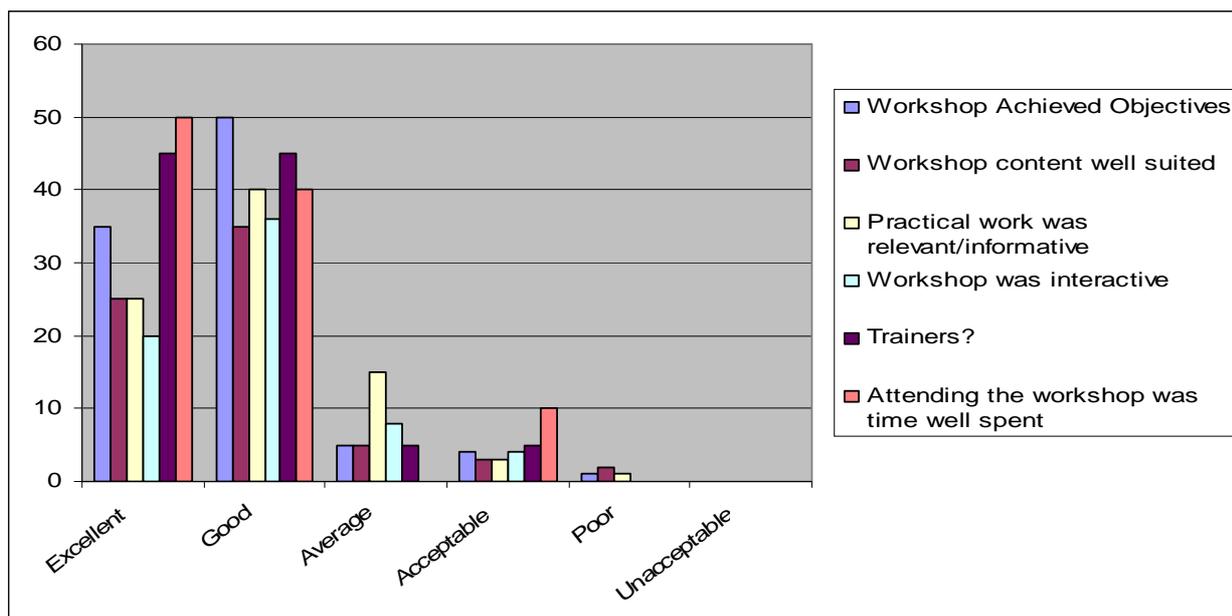


Status of Project Implementation in RENA WG 2 – Climate Change (*Imre Csikos*)

Mr. Csikós presented the overview of the RENA Climate activities until to date, provided considerations for the RENA Workplan with the special attention to the Activity Scheme 2.1 (ReCAP), the Activity Scheme 2.2 (MMD) and the Activity Scheme 2.3 (ETS). He also presented activities in the first quarter 2012. So far, the following events took place within this WG:

- **First event:** Annual RENA Working Group Meeting on Climate in Zagreb, Croatia on 22 February 2011 (activity scheme 2.1, Task 1)
- **Second Event:** Activity Scheme 2.1: Regional Workshop on the Climate and Energy Package in Budva, Montenegro on 21 and 22 March 2011 (activity scheme 2.1, Task 2)
- **Third event:** Activity Scheme 2.3: Regional Workshop on the revised EU –ETS in Istanbul, Turkey on 16 and 17 May 2011 (this workshop) (activity scheme 2.3)
- **Fourth event:** Activity Scheme 2.2: Regional Workshop on EU Policies and legislation on transport/fuels and F-gases in Istanbul, Turkey on 18 May 2011 (activity scheme 2.1, Task 2)
- **Fifth event:** Activity Scheme 2.1: Regional workshop on the Identification of follow-up national ReCAP events on concrete climate actions in Bonn, 12 June 2011 (activity scheme 2.1, Task 3)
- **Sixth event:** Workshop on the Monitoring Mechanism Decision (280/2004/EC) and its implementing provisions in Skopje on 30 June and 1 July, 2011. (Activity scheme 2.2)
- **Seventh event:** Workshop on the Emission Trading Directive in Zagreb - focus on MRV, 26 and 27 Sep (Activity Scheme 2.3)
- **Eighth event:** Workshop on the inclusion of aviation into the ETS in Zagreb, 28 Sep (Activity Scheme 2.3)
- **Ninth event:** Workshop on the use of CRF Reporter Tool in Tirana, 16-17 November (Activity Scheme 2.2)
- **Tenth event:** Second Annual Climate Group meeting in Tirana, 18 November (Activity Scheme 2.1)

He also presented the consolidated results of the participants' evaluations so far, where majority felt that workshops achieved the objectives set, that the workshops content was well suited to their needs, while the practical work was relevant and informative. The trainers also scored very high marks and the majority of participants thought the time at the workshops well spent.



The results of the training confirmed that the countries have different levels of capacity to tackle the climate change issues however all the RENA countries (including Croatia) need to continue to take steps to achieve convergence with the EU Climate Acquis. The 2011 workshops' conclusions stressed the desirability of a high-level message from the EU side to the Region. Additionally, workshops' participants welcomed RENA climate initiatives that aim for the transfer of knowledge on the latest developments in relation to the EU climate policy and legislation to the RENA country climate experts. In order to be able to continue providing this valuable input, it was proposed that the project will implement many more events in 2012 but as the relevant target group within environment remains very small it is necessary to involve other line Ministries more systematically. As all 2011-2013 IPA programmes (national and regional) contain climate change as one of the top priorities, the RENA should maximise its benefit unlocking these opportunities.

The following events were proposed for the RECaP in 2012:

1. ReCAP FYR of Macedonia: January 2012, Skopje

The date was set in the week from 23-27 January, Skopje with the fYRoM CC Coordinator Teodora Grncarevska, who reminded that the workshop should mainly focus on national authorities and industry, given particular attention to the high-ranking officials. Mr Yrjö Mäkelä (EC) indicated that the corresponding representation level will be provided from the European Commission. The workshop should focus on the Climate and Energy package, giving a broad overview of other relevant legislation. Mr Mäkelä reminded that the Road Map for Energy 2050 to be adopted in December should also be given a prominent place in the workshop. Ms Grncarovska added that it would be very useful to have the institutional set up and financial aspects of the legislation elaborated on in the presentations. Mr. Mäkelä explained that in his opinion the presentations should focus on general presentation of policy level and not too much on the details of EU legislation. The next EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework should also be mentioned as it gives more prominence to the climate change issues in the EU budget (cross-sectoral). Ms Grncarovska proposed that the Head of EUD in fYRoM be present at the workshop as they coordinate IPA. It was agreed that the first draft of the Agenda will be sent in the first week of December 2011. After that, sending of invitations will be coordinated among the Project and the Ministry of Environment to ensure the maximum turnout.

2. ReCAP Serbia, 16-17 February, Belgrade

This national 2-day event will also focus on the Climate and Energy Package and its legislative elements. The target group will be ministries officials, as well as regional and local authorities (if applicable) and the industry. Ms Repac (Serbia) reminded that it would be very important to avoid duplications of the issues as there will also TAIEX workshop on ETS in March 2012. Imre Csikós confirmed that rather than overlapping the agendas will complement each other.

3. Following ReCAP events

The next RECaP events will take place in Turkey, April 2012 (Istanbul), which will particularly focus on high level and industry CEOs, Montenegro, May 2012 (Podgorica), for industry, institutions and NGOs, Albania, June 2012 (Tirana), Kosovo, September 2012 (Pristina) and B-H, October 2012 (Sarajevo). The participants mentioned that it would be very good that the media, particularly the journalist educated in environmental issues be involved as well.

4. MMD

On the Monitoring Mechanism Decision (MMD) Activity the following events were planned in 2012: the two days regional workshop on preparing GHG emission inventories and reporting was held in Tirana (16-17 November). It is planned that the GHG inventory results using CRF Reporter Tool will be presented in June workshop in Zagreb. In the meantime, the project will provide hand-on assistance to the countries in the implementation of this exercise. (See later)

5. ETS

Furthermore, other events within the ETS activity will also be taking place in 2012: fYRoM, Skopje: week between 23-27 January 2011; Sub-regional awareness raising seminar on the EU ETS (combined with the proposed ReCAP event; Turkey, Istanbul – March 2012: national RENA ETS workshop. Additionally, from 2012 onwards exchange missions of SEE experts from the beneficiary institutions and EU MS experts from the relevant institutions will be organised to provide:

-Assistance to prepare lists of installations in line with the third phase of the EU ETS (excluding aviation).



-Assistance with Preparation of concrete IPA Climate projects (e.g. fiche MMD Turkey, Fiche climate modelling Croatia).

Enlargement 2011 Package – Climate Considerations (Yrjö Mäkelä)

Mr. Mäkelä greeted the participants and introduced the recently adopted Enlargement Package, which consists of the following documents:

1. **Enlargement Strategy Paper**
2. **Eight Progress Reports**
3. **Opinion on Serbia's membership application**
4. **Opinion on Croatia's readiness to sign an accession treaty with the EU**

In response to the findings of RENA during its first year of operation as well as bilateral contacts, the Commission adopted the following key message through its Enlargement Strategy Paper: **Enlargement countries need to become better prepared to withstand climate change and align with the EU's efforts to address this challenge, including through awareness raising. Progressive climate action will bring benefits through low-carbon development and can create jobs**".

For the purpose of accession negotiations, the Chapter 27 is renamed "Environment and Climate Change" from now on (except for Turkey and Iceland).

Mr Mäkelä stressed that this year's Progress Reports put significantly more emphasis on climate, including through detailed reporting on the beneficiaries' progress on climate policy and legislation.

Reporting on this Chapter was made more thorough and now covers developments in the following areas:

- The existence of a climate policy framework
- International commitments/pledges and their implementation
- Co-operation with the EU on climate issues in the international and regional fora
- Convergence with the EU climate legislation
- Administrative capacity in the field of climate change
- Co-operation with other involved Ministries and authorities
- Awareness-raising needs

Additionally, further climate-related measures are reported in the context of the energy, transport and environment sections of the Progress Reports.

Mr Mäkelä illustrated his point with an example on Croatia's Progress Report, which states that important progress has been achieved in terms of climate change policy framework, compliance with international obligations, as well as to a certain extent on harmonisation with and the transposition of the EU legislation. However, the Progress Report concludes that: "*Significant efforts are still required to further strengthen administrative capacity, especially as regards nature protection and climate change. Regarding climate change, significant further efforts are still necessary to complete the legislative alignment and to ensure implementation, in particular in the areas of aviation, free allocation, registries and auctioning.*"

Mr Mäkelä then added that there are also IPA implementation reports which explain progress in the use of the IPA instrument.

Mr Mäkelä also stressed that the objective of the proposed 2014-2020 EU budget is that 20% of the EU financing should become climate related, which will also indirectly reflect on the RENA countries.

Finally, the conclusions were that the Commission is giving significant further visibility to the urgent needs of the RENA beneficiaries to step up efforts on climate issues, both within the enlargement process and internationally. Additionally, the Commission is ready to enhance support through an increased use of different instruments available (SAA Councils, SAA Committees, Sub-committees, RENA I and II, high-level events, technical meetings, Progress Reports, screening reports, monitoring reports, IPA I and II, mainstreaming of



climate into the EU 2014-2020 budget, TAIEX, peer reviews, etc.) However, dedication of the RENA countries is crucial as the success depends on the countries own efforts.

MMD: CRF Reporter Workshop Summary and Results (*Davor Vesligaj and Imre Csikós*)

Mr Davor Vesligaj discussed the results of the Monitoring Mechanism Decision Workshop, which concentrated its efforts on methods to collect and interpret data and submission through the Common Reporting Format (CRF) Reporter tool of the UNFCCC and its use in compiling data for the GHG Registries. The MMD itself establishes a mechanism for monitoring all anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs. It enables the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol as regards national programmes, GHG inventories, national systems and registries of the Community and its Member States (MS). Additionally, it ensures the timeliness, completeness, accuracy, consistency, comparability and transparency of reporting by the Community and its MS to the UNFCCC. Mr Vesligaj summarised the training which successfully provided:

- *Introduction to the CRF Reporter tool*
- *Overview of Annex I countries experience in using the CRF Reporter (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Romania)*
- *Overview of RENA country state of play regarding GHG emission inventories*
- *How to use IPCC methods to estimate emissions from fuel combustion and fugitive emissions*
- *How to compile national GHG inventory by using the CRF Reporter tool*

The participants were also given two “real-life-medium-difficulty emission estimation” tasks: 1) fuel combustion sectoral approach and 2) fuel combustions reference approach which were successfully accomplished with the assistance of RENA experts.

Mr Imre Csikós complemented the previous presentation by presenting conclusions and steps to take in the framework of the RENA WG 2 CC Activity 2.2. MMD in 2012. The purpose of the CRF Reporter Exercise was to:

- RENA Countries to familiarise themselves with CRF Reporter tool
- Prepare database for Combustion fuels sector in a harmonised way
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in preparing energy balances, GHG data inventory exercises and emission factors (focus Sector 1A)
- Identify gap filling needs and translate into concrete project proposals for further consideration

The following steps would be required in order to continue with the exercise:

1. Countries shall identify an inventory team for Sector 1A (Combustion fuels)

Each RENA country should send the RENA Secretariat CVs of two experts. The EU CV template was provided with the note that these experts should not, according to the IPA rules, be civil servants. The deadline for submission of CVs is 15 December 2011 and they should be sent to ruza.radovic@humandynamics.org with a copy to Imre.csikos@renanetwork.org and imijatovic@yahoo.com.

Experts will be working on the CFR reporter for Combustion Sector and will also be employed to work on identifying installations/activity as per the ETS Annex I. The work should start from 1 January and would last until 30 September 2012. ToR for experts will be prepared in December 2011 by the RENA Secretariat.

2. Data collection (January – April 2012)

This part of exercise will focus on the energy balance of each of the RENA countries. Additionally, the experts would focus on identifying the relevant data suppliers/institutions (activity data and emissions factors are required). The work would also concentrate on establishing the framework for data flow. Description of the national system and data flow would then be submitted to RENA by **15 February 2012**.

3. Installation of CRF Reporter

In cooperation with the UNFCCC, the countries will obtain a copy of the CRF Reporter for the training purposes. This process will be coordinated between the countries UNFCCC national focal points and the RENA Secretariat for optimum results.

4. First data imported in the CRF Reporter



The first draft should be ready by 25 March, while the data would be exported to the RENA experts for verification purposes and assistance.

5. Missions in April/May to countries to identify issues

First country missions could be organised in April or May 2012 to identify problematic issues. On these occasions, various analyses such as SWOT, gap identification, etc. will be carried out to identify data quality and availability, institutional and legal issues as well as problems in data flow. Additionally, there will be a possibility to organise consultative meetings in Berlin/Copenhagen/Zagreb (options) to discuss progress (a, b and c).

6. Completion of work (CRF filled for Sector 1a) by 15 May

7. Workshop in June to present results and identify follow up:

- a. Identify gaps (data quality and availability, institutional, legal)
- b. Gap filling requirements to establish framework for data flow
- c. Possibility to translate the above into an IPA project fiche

8. Identify list of installations that fall in the scope of ETS (June – September)

9. Prepare IPA Fiches with the RENA assistance (June – September)

Mr Csikos also presented three guideline documents which are essential for this exercise:

- **Good Practice Guidance** (<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gp/english/>)
- UNFCCC CRF Reporter 2.2 User Manual
- (<http://ghg.unfccc.int/download/CRFReporter/CRFReporter-v3.3-User-Manual.pdf>)
- **Guidance on Interpretation of Annex 1 of the EU ETS Directive** (http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/docs/guidance_interpretation_en.pdf).

Round table discussion

Round table discussion mainly concentrated on the RENA proposal for the CRF Reporter exercise. Ms Olivera Kujundzic expressed her doubt regarding the possibility that such experts can be found in Montenegro. However, some other participants believed that it would be possible to nominate people who had done similar work previously (fYR of Macedonia, Serbia). Mr Csikós also mentioned the intention to create a pool of regional RENA experts or the so called task force of experts to carry the work and to enable capacity building in the GHG inventory issues for the RENA countries, a main purpose of this exercise.

Mr Csikós mentioned that the main purpose of the exercise is to start building better knowledge and capacity as as to gradually improve the technical and institutional ability of the RENA countries to prepare submissions of National Inventory Reports in the framework of the MMD. As such, the exercise should be seen as a first step that should lead to:

- a. Identify gaps (data quality and availability, institutional, legal)
- b. Identify gap filling requirements to establish framework for data flow
- c. Possibility to translate the above into national or regional IPA project fiches to address identified gaps

It is expected that the above exercise's focus (until summer 2012) should focus more on **improving the process** of the preparation of sound inventories (combustion fuel) sector 1A towards a full and harmonised combustion fuel sector FGF inventory using appropriate guidelines and tools.

IPA Project Fiche Training Session (Imre Csikós)

As this was repeatedly requested by the participants Mr Csikós provided the training session on the IPA Project Fiche drafting. Ms Grncarovska stressed the importance of examples being deeply rooted in practical and concrete issues, such as the MMD implementation for fYRoM. Subsequently it was agreed that the RENA experts will assist fYRoM in drafting such a fiche. Additionally, Teodora emphasised that it would also be very beneficial if national workshops on the Logframe/project fiche drafting could be organised within the RENA project. Mr Csikós also presented the funding opportunities, with a focus on IPA financing:



IPA 2011- 2013

Environment and Climate Change

Croatia:	77.4 Million (18% of total IPA budget)
fYRoM:	54.85 Million (18%)
Turkey:	465.64 Million (18%)
Albania:	51.55 Million (20%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina:	54.22 Million (17.3%)
Montenegro	Final figures not yet available
Serbia:	99 Million (16%)
Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99):	24.42 Million (12%)
Multi:	17 Million (3.26%)
Cross border:	Unstated (total budget all sectors 225 Million)

He pointed out in detail to the most common mistakes in drafting project fiches and provided solutions for these situations. The workshop used two examples on how to prepare a sound intervention logic for projects addressing the following concrete issues (proposed on the spot by participants):

- Improve ambient air quality in major urban centres in the Western Balkans
- Improve ability of RENA countries to prepare National Inventory Reports by RENA countries

The intervention logic for both projects was prepared in the workshop using the participatory approach. Participants indicated that these types of sessions should be used more systematically on future RENA Climate work. It was also suggested to hold regional RENA Climate workshops on preparing sound IPA fiches for Climate. Mr Csikós mentioned that this could be done, but that as a consequence (for budgetary reasons) another planned topic should go.

Closure of the meeting

The follow-up points resulting from the meeting are:

Follow-up points	By whom	Deadline
Provide 2 CVs for the CRF Reporter Exercise	RENA countries/WG 2 CC Coordinators	15 December 2011
Send Agenda for the RECaP event in Skopje, 23-27 January 2012	RENA WG 2 CC Team Leader	1 week of December 2011
Assist in drafting project fiche on MMD for fYRoM	RENA WG 2 CC experts	As per agreement



Annex 1: PARTICIPANTS' LIST:

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