

Minutes of the Meeting

2nd Annual Meeting of WG 4 ECENA

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA)

Date: 18th October 2011, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia

Place: Hotel Karpos, Skopje, FYR Macedonia

Time: 08:30 – 18:00

Participants: Beneficiaries/WG 4 Coordinators



Darko Blinkov, *WG 4 Coordinator, Ministry of environment and physical planning*



Mr. Mladen Rudez, *WG 4 Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism*



Ms. Anita Pokrovac Patekar, *WG 4 Coordinator, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction*



Ms. Svetlana Parezanin, *WG 4 Deputy Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning*



Ms. Florije Kqiku, *WG 4 Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning*



Mr. Enis Tela, *WG4 Coordinator, Environmental Inspectorate*

Apologies from Mr. Dragan Asanovic (WG 4 coordinator Montenegro) and Mrs. Pinar Topkaya (WG 4 coordinator Turkey)

European Union

- Madalina Ivanica (EC task manager for RENA))

Project Team

- Mr. Ike van der Putte, TL/WG4 Leader
- Mr. Rob Glaser, WG 4 Senior ST Expert
- Mr. Mihail Dimovski, expert and WG 1 coordinator

Environment Forum Project

- Mr. Metodija Sazdov, Environment Forum representative

RENA Secretariat

- Mr. Ruza Radovic
- Bojana Stanojevska

Other initiatives

- Enes Srdic (IMPEL)
- Dragoljub Todoc (expert)



Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Ms. Madalina Ivanica , EC task manager for RENA, introducing her background and her experience in working with RENA. The participants were also welcomed by Mr. Darko Blinkov, WG4 coordinator, hosting the present meeting.

Mr. Darko Blinkov expressed his appreciation to RENA for organising the meeting and hopes that FYR of Macedonia together with other participating countries will also be part of the follow-up of the RENA programme (RENA II).He emphasised that in RENA II, projects should be focused on country priorities especially with reference to enforcement of legislation being a priority at the next level of accession. Relatively good progress is made in the transposition of environmental legislation. The implementation and enforcement of legislation is still a challenge for all beneficiary countries.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting from last ECENA meeting

Mr. Ike Van der Putte pointed out that all action points in the minutes of the ECENA meeting held in Montenegro (Becici, 20 October 2010) have been implemented and incorporated in the WG 4 programme. Examples are

- 1) A more detailed description of “common inspection” as an Annex in the inception report and
- 2) Organisation of training sessions in combination with field practice (Pilot industries).

No further comments were received and the minutes were approved.

Approval of the agenda

As proposed by Croatia the original draft agenda has been amended by including IMPEL and environmental crime as special subjects. Ms. Madalina Ivanica invited all participants to express their comments and ideas during the meeting.

Overview of developments in RENA and its status of implementation

Mr. Ike van der Putte started the presentation with general information on the status of implementation of RENA. He presented the institutional framework of the project with its specific programmes in four Working Groups and informed the participants that the next ministerial meeting is planned to be organized at the end of March 2012 in Brussels.

For WG1 a change is reported as Mr. Mihail Dimovski has been assigned as WG 1 leader replacing Ms. Cynthia Whitehead who had to withdraw from the project for health reasons. For all other working groups, leaders and co-leaders remain the same. The WG groups are on schedule with the implementation of the defined activities. From the reports made by WG 1 it can be concluded that transposition of environmental legislation is showing relatively good progress. However, more work needs to be done on implementation and enforcement of the legislation. WG 2 and 3 are implementing the defined programmes and are very active in training and creating awareness in the countries.

The Second RENA interim report was produced as a hardcopy with a CD containing specific outputs. Most of the materials have been and will be placed on the RENA website. In WG4 a number of 4 training programmes have been conducted and according to Mr. Van der Putte with the increasing number of training sessions, the numbers of end products with reports and evaluations will also increase. This is the case for all WGs.

Regarding the recruitment of experts it can be concluded that most of the experts for the working groups have been selected but that for 2012 some more are needed including experts from institutions and government agencies.

Regarding RENA focal points and WG coordinators, more changes are to be expected. Next to a new focal point for Montenegro, a new focal point for Turkey should be expected due to the reorganisation of the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

RENA is actively cooperating with other relevant stakeholders and NGOs EF representatives are invited for all meetings and are participating in most of the organised RENA meetings.



A question was raised by Ms. Anita Pokrovac Patekar on the evaluation and feed back of activities in the Second Interim report.

It was explained by Mr. Ike van der Putte and Ms. Ruza Radovic that every training activity has a feedback based on standardized evaluation forms. An evaluation report is produced for each activity with inclusion of the feed back results. The evaluation reports are included in the separate CD of the interim report and are placed on the RENA website.

There is a strong recommendation of Ms. Anita Pokrovac Patekar that everything considering feedback or evaluation should also be included in the main body of the text.

Ms. Madalina Ivanica recommended that the interim report will include a specific heading on the evaluation of activities.

In this respect it was added by Ms. Ivanica that the RENA secretariat was asked to perform an evaluation of all activities, in order for the EC to have more in depth analysis on what has been done up to now with a qualitative and quantitative overview of the activities.

Mr. Dragoljub Todoc asked what the level of awareness and knowledge is of third parties on RENA as the project should be considered of importance also for NGOs and the business sector.

Mr. Van der Putte answered that this is a strong point because more and more regulations are putting specific responsibilities to the business sector. However, the RENA budget is not allocated for the business sector as a stakeholder.

Mr. Metodija Sazdov commented that these kinds of trainings and initiatives can also be organized by chambers of commerce which role is to help the industry

Ms. Madalina Ivanica explained that the project is capacity building for the Ministries in the beneficiary countries. Other stakeholders can be invited to the activities but on their own expenses.

Protection of Environment through Implementation of Criminal Environmental Law

The aim of Mr. Mihail Dimovski's presentation was to discuss to what extent combating environmental crime should be considered as a priority and how to integrate implementation of the EC Environmental Crimes Directive in RENA activities. Another item was to discuss follow up and synergies with WG4. Mr. Dimovski emphasized that transposition of the EU Acquis does not always ensure proper implementation in reality and that there are a lot of weaknesses in the enforcement of environmental law. Activities related to combating environmental crime activities should be covered under WG1 and WG4. Under WG1 a regional training on environmental crime has been conducted. There are also more activities planned to be conducted under WG1 in the period from September 2011-March 2012, such as the second regional workshop for CLP and REACH Regulations.(note: both the environmental crimes directive and the REACH and CLP regulations are subjects that can be selected in the WG 4 training programmes for inspectors and permit writers).In addition a third regional workshop on the INSPIRE Directive has been organised and an Annual RISP meeting is planned for defining further activities.

IMPEL activities with specific reference to transfrontier shipment of waste (TFS)

Mr. Enes Srdic gave a brief explanation on the background of IMPEL, on who the involved authorities and organizations are and also on the objectives and strategic aims of IMPEL. The IMPEL – TFS (**T**rans **F**rontier **S**hipment of waste) is one of the three clusters of the IMPEL programme. The activities are related to enforcement projects on transfrontier waste transport via seaports and roads. Furthermore attention is paid to risk assessment and also to the development of supporting tools for inspectors. In his presentation Mr. Srdic explained how his Ministry performed the verification process of waste destination and treatment in countries of destination. He also provided illustrative figures on number and types of violations.

Mr. Sazdov asked about protective equipment for inspectors doing field inspections. Mr. Srdic answered that there is special equipment available but that in addition there are also special experts who are carrying out analyses to assess whether it is safe for inspectors to continue with inspection.



Ms. Madalina Ivanica informed the participants that the EC has asked IMPEL to open the membership not only to candidate countries as is the case now but also to open membership to potential candidates. In this way all beneficiary countries in RENA can participate in IMPEL activities including IMPEL TFS. In the subsequent discussions with the IMPEL board two main concerns were raised: one was which countries are considered as potential candidates and another concern was the financial consequences of membership. After additional information provided by the EC, the IMPEL Board took a positive decision. However, the IMPEL Board has to put the proposal as an item on the agenda of the General Assembly Meeting and needs also approval by its members. The Commission is now waiting on a positive decision from the General Assembly which is going to have its meeting at the end of November 2011.

Presentation of WG4 Cluster 1 activities – Training and exchange Planned and finalized activities

This presentation was given and discussed by Mr. Ike van der Putte and Mr Rob Glaser. It provided a detailed overview of the planned and finalized activities within WG4 for Cluster 1 activities on training and exchange. Apart from the training workshops on IPPC permitting and inspection in the individual beneficiary countries for around 20 participants, also site visits to selected factories have been included with invited participants from 2-3 other RENA countries to carry out the so called “common inspections” and exchange of information. The general training programme included a 3.5 days training where day 1 is related to general subjects, day 2 on IPPC/IED requirements, permitting and inspection, day 3 on site visit and reporting and day 4 on evaluation of results and further presentations on special subjects. Special subjects and specific directives can be selected and might include IED/IPPC with EIA, LCP, PRTR, RMCEI, SEVESO II, VOCs, waste and chemicals management (REACH/CLP) and environmental crime. For the training in the first 4 countries Albania, Kosovo under UNSCR1244 /99, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey detailed topics have been assessed and specific training manuals have been produced. The site visits were held at cement factories with the exception of Turkey where a steel factory (Electric Arc Furnace) has been visited. The training in this first batch of 4 countries has been finalized in the period March – October 2011.

For the second batch of 4 countries the specific subjects and pilot industries for the training have already been selected. In Serbia it is planned to visit a petrochemical plant with IED/IPPC, SEVESO II and waste management as special subjects. The training is to be held in March 5-8, 2012. For FYR of Macedonia a site visit will be made to a steel factory with a training concentrating on IED/IPPC in the period 23 -27 April 2012. In Montenegro the site visit and common inspection is planned to be conducted at a thermo electrical power plant and will concentrate on the LCP directive and land filling of waste as special subjects in the period of 3-7 September 2012. The training in Croatia will be held in the first week of October (1-5 October 2012) with a visit to a calcium aluminates cement plant with IED /revision of RMCEI as special subjects.

The results from evaluation forms filled by participants to the trainings in Albania, BiH and Kosovo were presented, illustrating that especially the combination of lectures and practical field visits to pilot industries were very much appreciated.

Round table discussion on Cluster 1 activities

The National coordinator of BiH evaluated what has been reached in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under cluster 1, training and exchanging, a highly appreciated practical training has been provided for participants on entity level, cantonal and municipal level including environmental permit writers and environmental inspectors. In Bosnia and Herzegovina there is not a sufficient basis for issuing integrated permits at this moment and there are not many environmental inspectors available. The training was very useful especially in providing practical training with the cement industry as a concrete example. The cement industries are considered as big polluters. An associated problem in BiH is the site remediation of quarries of the cement industry.



Mr. Blinkov from the Macedonian Ministry also agreed that the training was very useful especially in relation with the cement plants. He asked if it is possible in future to put the training and information materials on a USB considering the size and volume.

Ms. Anita Pokrovac Patekar, National Coordinator for Croatia, expressed that it will be very useful if bilateral exchange is organized, where practical trainings in a particular cement industry will be conducted, together with operators and inspectors which will help in exchanging experiences regarding modernization and incineration technologies. She proposed this to be considered as one of the next RENA activities.

Also Mr. Enes Tela from the Albanian inspectorate and Ms Florie Kqiku mentioned that the training courses were very useful and that in general all inspectors were very satisfied with the programme.that has been carried out.

Presentation of Cluster 2 activities – Institutional and methodological Development

Activity 2: Country external assessments, Case Serbia

Mr. Ike Van der Putte gave a short introduction on the Cluster 2, activity 2 Country external assessments. The countries were visited by the respective experts, interviews were held with various stakeholders and an analysis was made of the collected materials. Based on the elements of the regulatory cycle, draft reports have been prepared which were sent out to the Ministry for obtaining comments. He pointed out that the activity will be finished by the end of this year in which the reports for Serbia, FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro are considered to be finalized, and the reports for Albania, Kosovo under UNSCR1244 /99 , BiH and Turkey are in the preparatory phase, i.e. to be finalized in January 2012. The assessment is done evaluating the national, regional and local environmental capacity covering the whole regulatory cycle of policy, legislation, permitting, verification and control, monitoring and reporting, focusing specifically on the issues of permitting, inspection and enforcement.

Country external assessment. Case Serbia

Mr. Dragoljub Todic presented the report he prepared for the external assessment of Serbia. The methodology for preparation is based on the regulatory cycle where the first step is policy, followed by legislation, implementation with permitting and enforcement and feedback reporting. The basic methodology had three elements in which the 1st one is the analysis of documentation which includes an analysis of strategic documents, reports and answers in the European Commission questionnaires for progress monitoring. The 2nd phase was preparing questionnaires and sending them to the business sector, NGOs and Ministry staff working on permits, in the provincial and local self government units. At the final 3rd stage interviews with some of the relevant stakeholders were performed.

Furthermore Mr. Todic explained the subjects considered in preparation of the report, with a comprehensive analysis of policy, legislation, strategic documents, harmonization with EU legislation, permitting and enforcement, monitoring responsibilities, reporting, access to information and public participation, control and enforcement, appeals, and capacity building programmes for public authorities. The report also contains information on the response to the Environmental Acquis and governmental plans for joining the European Union. The transposition implications and involved institutions in implementation of the Environmental Acquis are also considered. The report also includes a review of local self government and public utility companies and their role in implementation of environmental legislation.

At the end of the presentation Ms. Ivanica pointed out that according to the Commission on a general level Serbia made progress in approximation of the environmental acquis comparing with previous years.

Mr. Rob Glaser asked about the structure of the environmental inspectorate in Serbia, is it an independent body or not? On this question Mr. Todic answered that there is an initiative for placing the inspectorate in one separated agency. This agency will cover all activities related to inspection and



permitting, and the Ministry will be in charge for drafting laws, creating policies, etc, but for now that is only an idea that is being developed.

Mr. Todic explained that the problem is specifically referring to the local level. It is hard to find competent people in LSGs. So very often it is the case that one person is issuing permits and at the same time the same person is doing also the controlling inspection activities.

Presentation of Cluster 3 activities – Cross border enforcement and Networking

As the end of the meeting Mr. Ike van der Putte gave short introduction on Activity 3, Activity 4, Activity 5 and Activity 6 within WG4. Main aim of this presentation is to show the plan of activities for the year 2012.

Activity 3 (EU –ETS) includes a Regional Training /Workshop programme on elements of the European Climate Change Programme. A 2-day regional training workshop will be organized with a focus on Kyoto mechanisms and the major factors in the EU ETS Compliance cycle **(Zagreb 15 – 16 May 2012)**

Activity 4 (TFS), includes Regional Training /Workshop programmes on elements of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR). Two 2-day regional training workshops will be organized: one in Edirne, Turkey on harbor and ship transport **(18 -19 April 2012)** and the other one on road transport at the Macedonian Serbian border **(13-14 June 2012)**. The TFS activity will be organized in cooperation with IMPEL.

Activity 5 (– Inspection and Enforcement in Cross border nature protection areas) includes Regional Training/Workshops on elements of enforcement in cross border nature protection. Two 2-day regional training workshops will be organized: one will be organised in FYR of Macedonia/Albania - Lake Ohrid **(23-25 October 2012)** and the 2nd WS will be organised in Albania/Montenegro – Skadar Lake **(13-15 November 2012)**.(note: This activity will be organised in cooperation with Greenforce)

At the end of the meeting , under Networking activities (Activity 6), Mr. Van der Putte presented the proposed participation of ECENA in relevant networking activities and schedule for participation.

Ms. Madalina Ivanica concluded the meeting noting that the workplan for the next months has been made and dates are defined

Other

Ms. Patekar recommends that in future RENA activities training can be organized, in which both operators and inspectors will be invited and will have concrete training on particular hot spots.

Considering activity 1- training and common inspections Mr. Rob Glaser emphasized that it is very important that invited inspectors who will participate in the training come well prepared and should not have any hesitations in exchange of information during the training sessions.

Closure of the meeting

The follow-up points resulting from the meeting are:

Follow-up points	By whom	Deadline
Confirmation of the Calendar of activities to be sent by e-mail to all beneficiaries	WG4 Key expert	Next few weeks (see ANNEX))
Activity 1.Finalization selection of topics for training batch 2 countries (FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro)	WG 4 Key expert and STE for activity 1	/December 2011

Follow-up points	By whom	Deadline
Activity 1.Finalization training manual for training and common inspection batch 2 countries	WG 4 Key expert an STE for activity 1	/January 2012
Activity 2.Finalization of all country external assessment reports	WG4 Key expert and STE for activity 2	/January 2012
Activities 3-5.Finalization of training programmes for activity 3 (ETS), 4 (TFS) and 5 cross border nature inspection with selection of experts	WG 4 k Key expert	See calendar of activities (ANNEX)



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2012 RENA WG 4	
Activity 1 Training and common inspection	
Serbia	6 – 9 March 2012
fYR of Macedonia	24 -27 April 2012
Montenegro	4 – 7 September 2012
Croatia	2 – 5 October 2012
Activity 3 ETS	
Zagreb	15 – 16 May 2012
Activity 4 TFS	
Turkey – Harbor	18 – 19 April 2012
fYR of Macedonia/Serbia	13 – 14 June 2012
Activity 5 . Cross border Nature inspection	
Lake Ohrid (fYR of Macedonia/Albania)	23 – 25 October 2012
Skadar Lake (Albania/Montenegro)	13 – 15 November 2012
Activity 6: Participation in networks	
IMPEL GAM Copenhagen	7 – 8 June, 2012
IMPEL Projects	TBD
Other sister networks (INECE, Interpol, ...)	TBD

