

ECRAN ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE FORUM (ECF):

Activity 1.1

KICK OFF MEETING 2014

Date 07, 08 May 2014

Budva, Montenegro

Background: The European Commission attaches a lot of importance to the public consultation process and the involvement of the NGOs community in the national decision-making process. The NGOs Dialogue established in 1999 with the European Commission's support has enabled over the last 15 years the creation of a network of selected NGOs from the enlargement countries while providing them an opportunity to become an active and constructive partner for national public administrations. Starting with October 2013, the NGOs Environment and Climate Forum (ECF) is part of the Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) project, covering environment and climate policy areas. Following the call for interest published in January 2014, in total 21 NGOs were selected for participation in the ECF. These organisations represent civil society from Croatia and the EU candidate countries (FYRoM, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey) and potential candidates (Albania, BiH, Kosovo¹). In order to establish the group and create basis for the productive work and cooperation, the ECRAN-ECF has prepared Kick-out regional meeting of the 21 ECF NGOs. The meeting main goal is to start up planned activities and agree/approve the key programming documents and plans for the 2014 and beyond.

Key objectives of the meeting:

- (i) To open officially the ECF component of ECRAN, introduce ECF NGOs, ECF-ECRAN team and experts, explain and discuss ECF goals, objectives, opportunities and tasks for the NGOs;
- (ii) To discuss progress in development of the key ECF related materials and plans (i.e., Training Needs Assessment, The NGOs Specific Regional Training Plan - SRTP, Work Plan 2014) and to approve next steps;
- (iii) To discuss and agree on the principles of work and communication, to develop and agree on the system of cooperation and decision-making procedures;

Participants: Representatives of 21 NGOs selected for ECF-ECRAN, Representative(s) of the European Commission, ECF Support Team and ECRAN experts.

Expected Results of the meeting:

- ECF established in line with the ECF/ECRAN Term of Reference and basic principles/rules of cooperation and work agreed.
- Framework agreement on the Training needs assessment (TNA) and the NGOs Specific Regional Training Plan (SRTP).
- Draft agenda for the 1st ECF training event (June 2014).
- Endorsed Work plan for 2014.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Draft Agenda Outline and List of Confirmed Participants

Day 1: May 7, 2014

Start	Finish	Topic	Facilitator/Speaker	Sub topic/Content
09:00	09:30	Registration		
9:30	10:00	Opening of the meeting	Madalina Ivanica Richard Filcak	Presentation and adoption of the agenda, Short introduction of the participants
10:00	11:00	BLOCK 1: Introducing the ECRAN and its ECF component	Ruza Radovic Madalina Ivanica	1. Introducing the ECRAN: What is ECRAN, who are the beneficiaries, how it works, and what are the planned activities. 2. ECF pillar of ECRAN and involvement of the civil society into the enlargement process: Goals and objectives of the ECF and the EU – NGO dialogue.
11.00	11.30	Coffee Break		
11.30	13.00	BLOCK 2: Specific Regional Training Plan	Andjelka Mihajlov	Training needs assessment and the NGOs Specific Regional Training Plan (SRTP). Drafting the agenda for the 1st training event (June 2014).
13.00	14.00	Lunch		
14.00	15.30	BLOCK 3: NGOs Get together Session I.	Toni Vidan	Experience from the previous EU-NGO dialogues, and NGO expectations from the ECF. How to optimally use ECF, synergies, drivers and opportunities.
15.30	16.00	Coffee Break		
16.00	17.30	BLOCK 4: NGOs Get together	NGO facilitator (to be selected)	Decision-making, selection process for ECRAN events, basic



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Start	Finish	Topic	Facilitator/Speaker	Sub topic/Content
		Session II.		rules of work in ECF, self-organizing principles, communication and selection process for nominations, key documents and positions development and approval.
17.30	17.45	Wrap up, Amendments to agenda Day 2 (if any)	Richard Filcak	
19.00	21.00	Dinner		



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Day 2: May 8, 2014

Start	Finish	Topic	Facilitator/Speaker	Sub topic/Content
9.30	9.40	Introduction to the Day 2	Madalina Ivanica	Reflections on the first day and key challenges for the second day of the meeting.
9.40	11.00	BLOCK 5: Annual Meeting (AM) and in-country preparation	Natasa Kovacevic	Plan and steps for the in-country preparatory meetings and linking the events with the AM. Issues for the AM, approaches to the agenda framing, points for the Commissioner and basic principles for the process. Selection of the themes for the AM.
11.00	11.30	Coffee Break		
11.30	13.00	BLOCK 6: Work Plan	Richard Filcak	Planning for the 2014 and beyond: Activities, timeline, outcomes and responsibilities.
13.00	14.00	Lunch		
14.00	16.00	Wrap up and conclusions	Richard Filcak Madalina Ivanica	Summary of the main decisions, division of tasks for the upcoming period, and final conclusions on open issues (if still any). Reflections on the meeting from the side of the organisers and from the NGO perspective.
16.00		Departure		



List of confirmed participants

	names	CSO	Country	contact details
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