ECRAN Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network





human dynamics public sector consulting

A project implemented by a Consortium led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network - ECRAN, financed by the EU and managed by the European Commission, assists the beneficiaries in exchange of information and experience related to preparation for accession. ECRAN is strengthening regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of environment and climate action, assisting their progress in the transposition and implementation of the EU environmental and climate acquis through exchange of experience with the EU Member States' public administration experts.

Regional co-operation in the environment and climate area has been supported by the European Commission for almost a decade, starting in 2005 with the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South-East Europe (REReP), continuing with the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) covering the period 2010-2013 and followed by the ECRAN project as of October 2013. The current regional project, same as the previous (ReREP and RENA) aim at providing to the enlargement countries a framework to establish, strengthen and improve their capacity to deal with implementation challenges. These projects have been very successful in fostering and facilitating the dialogue at regional level, but also between the region and the EU Member States.

ECRAN builds on experience gained and results achieved by the previous regional initiatives, in particular those related to environmental and climate investments, transposition and implementation of environmental and climate legislation, compliance and enforcement, local and regional initiatives, climate action, water management, waste management, air quality, industrial emissions, nature protection, environmental impact assessment (EIA), strategic environmental assessment (SEA), public participation and support to the civil society.



Priority Issues

ECRAN includes an environment component, a climate component as well as a horizontal component dealing with the enforcement and implementation of the acquis, progress monitoring and dialogue with the civil society. The activities under each component are implemented through a system of Working Groups (WGs) as follows:

Environment Working Groups:

- Strategic Planning and Investments;
- Water Management;
- Environmental Assessments;
- Air Quality;
- Waste Management;
- Nature Protection;
- Industrial Emissions Directive IED/ Chemicals.

Climate Action Working Groups:

- Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness;
- GHG Inventory Systems and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation;
- Emissions Trading (EU ETS);
- Adaptation to Climate Change.

Horizontal activities:

- Enforcement and compliance (ECENA);
- Public participation NGOs
- Environment and Climate Forum;
- Progress Monitoring;
- Legislative Compliance Checks;
- Handbook for the implementation of the EU environmental acquis;
- Handbook for the implementation of the EU climate acquis.

OBJECTIVES a scope

The overall project **objective** is to build on the results of RENA by continuing to strengthen administrative capacities and the regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of environment and climate action in view of future EU membership.

ECRAN Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network The project **purpose** is to assist the European Commission in providing the Secretariat of the Environment and Climate Regional Network for Accession (ECRAN).

The overall results to be achieved by the project are:

- Improved regional cooperation between authorities working on environment and climate issues of the EU candidate countries and potential candidates through regional dialogue
- Improved planning, transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU environment and climate acquis
- Improved capacity, expertise and regional cooperation of the NGOs
- Readiness for the accession negotiations for Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change.

The activities supported through ECRAN are providing the opportunity to the beneficiary countries, their administrations and their civil society organisations, for further development of the capacities to implement environment and climate acquis as preparation for their accession negotiation. Countries in the region are sharing similar issues related to transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU environment and climate acquis. In many of the targeted sectors different levels of progress can be identified amongst the beneficiary countries. Valuable exchange of experience between beneficiary countries as well as between these countries and EU Member States enables them to learn good practices.

General methodology and approach

ECRAN complements the existing bilateral dialogues between the European Commission (EC) and the beneficiary countries. The cooperation amongst the beneficiaries and the EC within ECRAN is conducted at both political and technical level:

- The political level through Ministerial meetings (setting priorities for actions, ensuring political commitment, discussing environmental and climate policy developments and course of actions);
- The technical level administered by the ECRAN Steering Committee Meetings (approving the work plan and outputs produced, monitoring the work plan implementation).

Implementation of ECRAN activities is carried out in cooperation with the EC TAIEX instrument; enabling access to the EU Members States' public administration experts.

The project activities are closely monitored and coordinated by the European Commission – Directorate-General for Environment, Directorate-General for Climate Action and Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, as well as by the ECRAN Steering Committee.

ECRAN beneficiaries and stakeholders

ECRAN provides support to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*1}, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey, as well as to Croatia (on selected priority issues).

In line with beneficiaries' status in the EU accession process, different levels of transposition, implementation and enforcement of the environmental and climate acquis can be identified.

ECRAN supports the ministries and other administrative authorities with responsibility for environment and climate action, as well as other relevant ministries, institutions and authorities by enhancing and improving capacities to transpose and implement the environment and climate acquis. ECRAN supports the civil society sectors of the beneficiary countries as well, through a network of selected Non-Governmental Organisations.

Involvement of the European Union Member States (EU MS) established under RENA, has been further promoted through cooperation with the EC TAIEX instrument and increased involvement of EU MS public experts.



ECRAN coordinates and cooperates with other stakeholders working in the region:

- International organisations, international finance institutions;
- Other EU-related initiatives and projects;
- Industries and business associations.

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



ECRAN Secretariat

ECRAN Secretariat has been established using the existing premises and structures of the RENA Secretariat, having the main task to follow up and build further on the structure and practice established by RENA.

The Secretariat maintains regular contact with beneficiaries and other stakeholders, provides information about bilateral and multilateral assistance in the region, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, as well as to ensure synergies of the projects. The Secretariat monitors the project implementation, presents monitoring results to ECRAN Steering Committee members, and ensures the implementation of Steering Committee decisions. The Secretariat staff is responsible for communication and coordination of activities with the EC TAIEX instrument.

Communication and visibility

ECRAN website **www.ecranetwork.org** is established and maintained by the ECRAN Secretariat. The website serves for promotion of the activities, announcement of regional and national events, as well as an electronic database for all documents and materials prepared by the ECRAN team available for download and further usage.

HORIZONTAL A C T I V I T I E S

Horizontal activities of ECRAN include cross cutting activities for both the environment and climate components.

ECRAN Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network The overall goal of the horizontal activities is to increase beneficiary countries' quality of transposition and implementation work in terms of improved transposition or EU environmental and climate legal requirements and to promote and assist the building of institutional structures that are better fit to implement and enforce transposed EU laws.

The key results of the horizontal component will include introduction of better governance, higher involvement of civil society representatives in the approximation process and bringing beneficiary countries considerably closer to full approximation and accession.

Enforcement and Compliance (ECENA)

The first international environmental inspection and enforcement network that specifically covered the Balkans area was the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network - BERCEN, established in 2001. In 2005 BERCEN was replaced with the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession - ECENA. Over the years, ECENA has developed considerably and the network activities closely mirror the activities developed and implemented by the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law - IMPEL. ECENA is using the methodologies, tools and products developed under IMPEL, as well as reports and manuals developed under other networks such as International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement - INECE, Interpol, GREENFORCE, etc.

The overall objective of ECENA is to improve the ability of ECENA member countries to implement and enforce the EU environmental and climate acquis by increasing the effectiveness of inspecting bodies and promoting compliance with environmental and climate requirements.

The overall objective follows the perspective of EU membership, and necessity of ECRAN beneficiaries to adopt EU standards in the environmental and climate area and closely cooperate for their enforcement in a cross-border context, together with the authorities of the neighbouring EU Member States.

The activities of ECENA are based on a Multi Annual Work Plan, covering the following areas:

- Training and exchange;
- Institutional and methodological development;
- Cross border enforcement of environment and climate legislation.

The main tasks of ECENA are the following:

- · Capacity building on compliance with environmental and climate legislation;
- External country assessments;
- Methodological development application of IRAM/easy Tools;
- Compliance with REACH/CLP Regulations;
- Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS);
- Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas;
- Inspector's participation in networking activities.

Progress Monitoring of Transposition and Implementation of the EU Environmental and Climate Acquis

Progress Monitoring of transposition and implementation of EU environmental and climate legislation, continues to be an instrumental activity for candidate countries and potential candidates. The main purpose of the activity is to provide an updated, comprehensive overview of the current situation in the ECRAN beneficiary countries on the status of transposition and implementation of the environmental and climate acquis, as well as to identify the progress achieved on a yearly basis in each of the beneficiary countries.

Progress Monitoring provides information about the progress in transposition and implementation for selected Directives and Regulations on an annual basis. The Tables of Concordance are based on a provision-by-provision comparison of EU Directive requirements with national law, which ensures timely identification of gaps between the national legislation and the EU requirements. In order to assist the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the assessment of their implementation efforts, the Implementation Questionnaires focus on practical elements of implementing Directive/ Regulation requirements, with special attention given to those requirements that may pose particular implementation problems. The Progress Monitoring activity is carried out for all ECRAN beneficiary countries, except Croatia.

Legislative Compliance Checks

Legislative compliance checks are an independent review of the compliance of national draft laws with the environment and climate EU acquis. Being an ad hoc activity, it is performed at the request that can be made by the ECRAN beneficiary countries and/ or European Commission. The final reports are confidential and can be disclosed only upon approval by the European Commission and the beneficiary country concerned.

Handbooks on implementation of the EU Environmental and Climate Acquis

The Handbook for Implementation of EU Environmental Legislation and the Handbook for Implementation of EU Climate Legislation provide a framework, and a step-by-step guidance, for the implementation of the EU environmental and climate legislation.





Environment and Climate Forum (ECF)

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. Building on the previous achievements (NGOs Forum 2004 - 2008 and the NGOs Environment Forum 2009 – 2012), the NGOs Environment and Climate Forum has been incorporated into ECRAN, as a horizontal element, covering the environment and climate components.

The overall objective of ECF is to build and strengthen civil society active in the environment and climate area in the ECRAN beneficiary countries through institutional strengthening and information exchange on the EU environmental and climate policy and developments in the enlargement process.

A total of 21 NGOs representing all the beneficiary countries are members of the ECF.

The focus of ECF is placed on:

- NGOs regional cooperation;
- Design and implementation of the NGO capacity building programme;
- Preparatory national and regional meetings and wider consultation;
- Organisation of annual meetings with the EC participation.

ENVIRONMENT C O M P O N E N T

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The overall goal of environment component is to provide assistance in building the administrative capacities for correct alignment with the EU legislation in selected sectors as well as on cross border cooperation as a whole. The activities under this component aim to further strengthen the capacities of the beneficiary countries for the upcoming EU accession negotiation process and related strategic planning.

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Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group

The overall objective of this Working Group is to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiary countries in the area of investment planning and finance management.

In terms of the EU accession process, Chapter 27 -Environment is one of the most demanding chapters. It comprises approximately 200 legal instruments related to environmental protection, pollution control, air quality, water and waste management, nature protection, chemicals, noise, etc. The environmental standards in the enlargement countries are considered to be very low compared to those of the EU. Therefore, all enlargement countries have to invest significant efforts and resources in the alignment of their national legislation with EU acquis and ensure its correct transposition, implementation and enforcement. The EU accession process requires significant resources, both for transposition and institutional development as well as for investments in environmental infrastructure. This implies that the financial, investment and capacity building needs have to be carefully planned well in advance.

The activities of Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group under ECRAN are focused on the following:

- Improvement of strategic planning in the beneficiary countries;
- Enhancement of regional cooperation and information sharing in environmental investment issues as a key element of the approximation toward the EU;
- Guiding the concrete work of the environmental investment activities through identification of training needs for different groups of stakeholders such as policy-makers, utilities, environmental funds etc.;
- Liaison with EC, International Financial Institutions IFIs, Western Balkan Investment Framework - WBIF, bilateral donors, NGOs, etc. to create an environment, which is more conducive for environmental investments. The activities will also provide opportunities for IFIs and bilateral donors to convey relevant messages;
- Strengthening the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with environmental infrastructure investment through capacity building on the most important cross-cutting investment related topics.

Water Management Working Group

The overall objective of Water Management Working Group is the creation of a platform for the exchange of experiences on issues of trans-boundary relevance, to support cooperation among neighbouring countries and strengthen the administrative capacities for the implementation of EU water quality legislation.

Given that thirteen river basins are shared by the SEE countries and about 90% of their territory falls within shared basins, the coordinated action among the riparian countries is very important.

All beneficiary countries are facing challenges related to the alignment process in the water management area. The need to develop the national systems to the requirements of the EU water legislation started to be addressed during the previous EC regional initiatives (REReP and RENA) and continue to be a priority under ECRAN project.



The main activities of Water Management Working Group are focused on:

- Increased capacity of the regional and local authorities to deal with water management, marine and coastal management issues;
- Further strengthening the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with transposition and implementation of Water Framework Directive²;
- Assistance for development of trans boundary river basin management plans (RBMPs);
- Capacity building on economic-financial analysis and cost recovery.

The activities are of a cross-cutting nature and are implemented in close collaboration with other Working Groups, specifically with the Environmental Assessments and Strategic Planning and Investments Working Groups.

² Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy



Environmental Assessment Working Group

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive³ and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive⁴ aim to provide a high level of environmental protection and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of projects, plans and programmes with a view to reduce their environmental impact.

All ECRAN countries are in the process of aligning their national EIA and SEA procedures with the EC requirements; however, there is a strong need for further development of cooperation regarding EIA and SEA cross-border issues. Developing clear procedures for transboundary EIA and SEA is of greatest importance, not only for the ECRAN countries, but also for all the countries potentially affected by projects/plans subject to an EIA/SEA procedure.

The activities implemented under the Environmental Assessment Working Group of ECRAN are building on the results achieved by the EIA/SEA Sub-group of the Regional Environmental Network for Accession – RENA and focus on capacity building, enhancement of the regional cooperation, exchange of information, awareness-raising and practical application of EIA and SEA.

The activities are of a cross-cutting nature and are implemented in close collaboration with other Working Groups, especially with the Nature, Water and Strategic Planning and Investment Working Groups:

- Implementation and monitoring of the SEA Directive (selection of pilot sites for provision of direct support in the development of SEA Plans);
- Other environmental assessments (capacity building on the Appropriate Assessments – Habitats Directive Article 6; Assessment under Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive – cooperation with Nature and Water Management Working Groups);
- Training of trainers programme on the EIA and SEA with a follow up programme implemented nationally at the local level.

³ Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance

⁴ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

Air Quality Working Group

As the result of EU legislation, much progress has been made in tackling air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and benzene. However, despite a reduction in some harmful emissions, air quality continues to cause problems. The new Air Quality Directive⁵ has entered into force on 11 June 2008.

The overall objective of this WG is to improve the administrative capacities at a central, regional and local level for the transposition and implementation of the Air quality acquis.

The activities of Air Quality Working Group are focused on capacity building in the following areas:

- Air quality assessment and management;
- Transposition and implementation of the National Emission Ceilings Directive⁶ and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone within the 1979 Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- Air Quality modelling;
- Stage II VOC Petrol Directive⁷;
- 2004/107/EC 4th daughter Directive⁸.

Waste Management Working Group

ECRAN countries are currently planning and implementing the EU waste management acquis. In order to reflect the Waste Framework Directive⁹ requirements on waste hierarchy (prevention, re-use, recycling, other recovery and disposal), countries shall gradually move from dependence on landfilling of waste to extensive systems for source separation, secondary separation, revised waste collection schemes, extended recycling capacities, treatment of biodegradable waste and, where economically feasible, mechanical and biological treatment systems.

The overall objective of this WG is to improve the administrative capacities at central, regional and local level for the transposition and implementation of the waste acquis.

^o Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Text with EEA relevance)



 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 5}$ Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC)

⁶ Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants

⁷ Directive 2009/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 on Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of motor vehicles at service stations

⁸ Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air

The main tasks of this WG will be focused on:

- Analysis of current waste management policies in the beneficiary countries, possible waste management options, investment actions needed;
 Further strengthening of the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with transposition and implementation of Waste Framework Directive, with the focus on:
- Remediation of landfills in the context of regional waste management;
- Trans frontier shipment of the waste, waste management and landfilling of waste;
- Implementation of efficient waste management systems and tools in line with the EU MS best practice.

Nature Working Group

The overall objective of this WG is to improve administrative capacities at a central, regional and local level for the transposition and implementation of the Nature protection acquis. The Birds Directive¹⁰ provides a framework for wild birds conservation and management while the Habitats Directive¹¹ introduces a coherent European ecological network of protected areas called Natura 2000. Natura 2000 is the biggest ecological network in the world and covers around 18% of the EU territory.

Nature Working Group is focused on several topics related to the implementation of the nature legislation:

- Appropriate Assessments as per Art.6(3) of the Habitats Directive;
- Assessment of conditions for designation of potential Natura 2000 sites;
- Public awareness on the opportunities and benefits offered by Natura 2000;
- Support to development of participatory pilot management plan.

The activities are of a cross-cutting nature and are implemented in close collaboration with other Working Groups, specifically with the ECENA and Environmental Assessments Working Groups.

¹⁰ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

¹¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)/Chemicals Working Group

Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)¹² ensures a high level of protection of human health and of the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals, the promotion of alternative test methods, the free circulation of substances on the internal market and enhances the competitiveness and innovation.

REACH is complemented by the Regulation for Classification, Labeling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP Regulation)¹³ that incorporates the classification criteria and labelling rules and requires companies to classify, label and package appropriately their hazardous chemicals before placing them on the market. Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)¹⁴, the successor of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive¹⁵, is focused on minimising pollution from various industrial sources throughout the European Union. Operators of industrial installations are required to obtain an integrated permit. The IED is based on several principles, namely (1) an integrated approach, (2) best available techniques, (3) flexibility, (4) inspections and (5) public participation.

The REACH and CLP regulations, interlinked amongst other with the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), are covering major chapters of chemicals legislation and industrial pollution control.

The activities are designed to further improve the capacities for compliance with chemicals legislation, with a focus on:

- The links between REACH/CLP and IED.
- Procedural aspects of REACH Regulation, (i.e. Roles and responsibility; Helpdesk; Enforcement; Development and implementation of inventory/register for chemicals);
- REACH/CLP and their downstream consequences (e.g. Seveso Directive, etc.) and interlinkages with other pieces of legislation (Water Framework Directive, Industrial Emissions Directive, biocides, etc.);
- Site visits/common inspection of selected IPPC/Seveso installations to provide practical insight in the selected topics.

¹² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC

¹³ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006

¹⁴ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)

¹⁵ Directive 2008/1/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control.

CLIMATE COMPONENT

The overall objective of this component is to enable the beneficiary countries to continue on the path they have taken to set up their structures, strategies and actions in the field of national climate policies converging with the EU Acquis.

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Activities focus not only on developing climate policies and legislation fully aligned with the EU Climate Acquis, but also on actual implementation modalities. Activities are being implemented that target the development of concrete climate policies, setting GHG emission reduction targets in the context of the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies and the need to feed into the 2015 international climate agreement. As such ECRAN provided concrete technical assistance for the development of the so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

Special attention is also paid to the development of national GHG inventory systems and reporting in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requirements and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation. Practical and technical training is provided in preparing the countries GHG inventories, while the focus in 2016 will be aimed at support for setting up of the national systems that will allow the reporting on GHG inventories on a permanent basis.

ECRAN also provides assistance on the development of roadmaps and practical training on the EU Emission Trading System (ETS), as one of the main tools of the EU to achieve concrete GHG emission reductions in the context of the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies. The main focus in this cycle of ECRAN is the set up and training on monitoring, reporting and verification requirements of the ETS.

Furthermore, in the field of adaptation, ECRAN provides capacity building on the use of existing adaptation-related tools and on the risk and vulnerability assessments.

The high level EU – ECRAN beneficiary dialogues are established on a regular basis, to discuss and promote convergence of climate and energy policies and legislation. Discussions focus on the challenges related to implementation of the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies as a milestone the EU's 2050 decarbonisation Roadmap and the EU's push for carbon neutrality in 2100. Overcoming these challenges will also open up horizons of opportunities: using energy more wisely and combating climate change is not only an investment in the future of our children, but also an opportunity to create new jobs and growth.

In the above context, the key results of the ECRAN activities as described below. These should enable beneficiary countries to advance considerably in their approximation to the EU climate acquis and to prepare their societies for the threats and possibly opportunities that climate change brings.

Climate activities are divided into four working groups:

- Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness;
- Greenhouse gasses (GHG) and EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR);
- Emissions Trading System (ETS);
- Climate Adaptation.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change and repealing Decision No 280/2004/EC

Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness Working Group

There is a need for developing concrete climate policies fully aligned with EU Climate acquis and setting GHG emission reduction targets consistent with the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies that will need to feed into the 2015 international climate agreement. ECRAN provides a regional platform to start working on this topic.

In the context of the 2015 UNFCCC Conference of Parties to be held in Paris, countries have been encouraged to initiate or intensify, and finally submit their intended nationally determined contributions, towards that agreement, which will come into force from 2020.

This Working Group addressed this through a regional exercise on the development of climate policies converging with EU climate acquis, with a special focus on the application of modelling, scenario development as well as tools for the preparation and implementation of low emission strategies. In addition regional seminars are held on the EU climate acquis. The high level EU-Beneficiary dialogues are implemented on selected topics, based on the priorities, needs and circumstances of each beneficiary. Their objective is also to focus on the continued awareness raising. Finally, practical hands-on assistance and short missions take place to support the drafting, fine-tuning and implementation of key policy documents, including INDCs, but also legislation on low carbon development, mitigation and adaptation as well as related assessments of social and economic impacts.

The main tasks of this WG are:

- · Capacity building on modelling, scenario development;
- Capacity building on selected climate acquis;
- High level dialogues between the EU and beneficiaries;
- Practical hands on assistance on low-carbon policy and legislative development.

The awareness and understanding of EU climate change legislation, policies and strategies as well as economic benefits is crucial in strengthening dialogue and cooperation on climate change between the EU and its partners. This Working Group therefore focuses on the target group from government institutions, continuously building critical mass and ever expanding it to include other parties with a role in implementing key elements of the climate acquis. These include other line Ministries as well as industry. In addition, the role of CSOs and academia are strengthened, especially in the field of climate strategy development and modelling.





GHG and MMR Working Group

The overall objective is to provide assistance to the beneficiary countries to start developing robust national inventory systems that are capable of preparing complete, accurate and transparent annual greenhouse gas inventories, inventory related chapters of the biennial reports as well as national communications in line with the UNFCCC requirements and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation -MMR.

The activities of the Working Group are a follow-up to the activities on the monitoring mechanism implemented in the framework of RENA, the so called "Monitoring Mechanism Decision -MMD Exercise". The main purpose of this WG is to improve knowledge and increase technical capacity, as well as institutional ability of the countries to prepare submissions of the National Inventory Reports in the framework of the Monitoring Mechanism Decision (MMD).

The main tasks of this Working Group are:

- Capacity building on GHG inventory process for the Energy Sector in line with the MMR and the UNFCCC requirements;
- Capacity building on GHG inventory process for the other Sectors in line with the MMR and the UNFCCC requirements;
- Capacity building on other elements of MMR.



Emission Trading System (ETS) Working Group

This overall objective of this Working Group is to provide the essential regulatory building blocks and increase technical capacity for a future national or regional functioning ETS system, which is modelled along the EU ETS. During RENA the ETS component targeted the competent authorities as primary target group. However, in order to have a future sound monitoring, reporting and verification system in place it is necessary to expand this target group and to start working with the operators and other relevant authorities.

The ECRAN ETS Working Group focuses on two specific implementing provisions:

- Commission Regulation (EU) 601/2012 (Monitoring and Reporting Regulation MRR) that establishes guidelines for the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by installations in the scheme pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC;
- Commission Regulation (EU) 600/2012 (Verification and Accreditation Regulation, V&A) that applies to the verification of greenhouse gas emissions and tonne-kilometre data occurring from 1 January 2013 and sets out a framework of rules for the accreditation of verifiers to ensure that the verification of operator's or aircraft operator's reports in the framework of the EU ETS, to be submitted in accordance with the MMR is carried out by verifiers that possess the technical competence to perform the entrusted task in an independent and impartial manner and in conformity with the requirements and principles set out in this Regulation.

The main tasks of this Working Group are focused on:

- Regional Training Programme on the EU MMR and A&V Regulations;
- Training missions to EU Member States;
- ETS Implementation and ETS strategy and roadmap development.

Climate Adaptation Working Group

Within this working group ECRAN promotes 'climate-proofing' action by further encouraging adaptation in key vulnerable sectors, supporting better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation and promoting actions to ensure that the infrastructure is made more resilient. ECRAN also addresses adaptation action by coordinating adaptation activities with the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) as the 'one-stop shop' for adaptation information in Europe.

In October 2014 the ECRAN Environment Ministers were requested to nominate National ECRAN Adaptation teams which with the assistance of EU Member States experts will work together on the following:

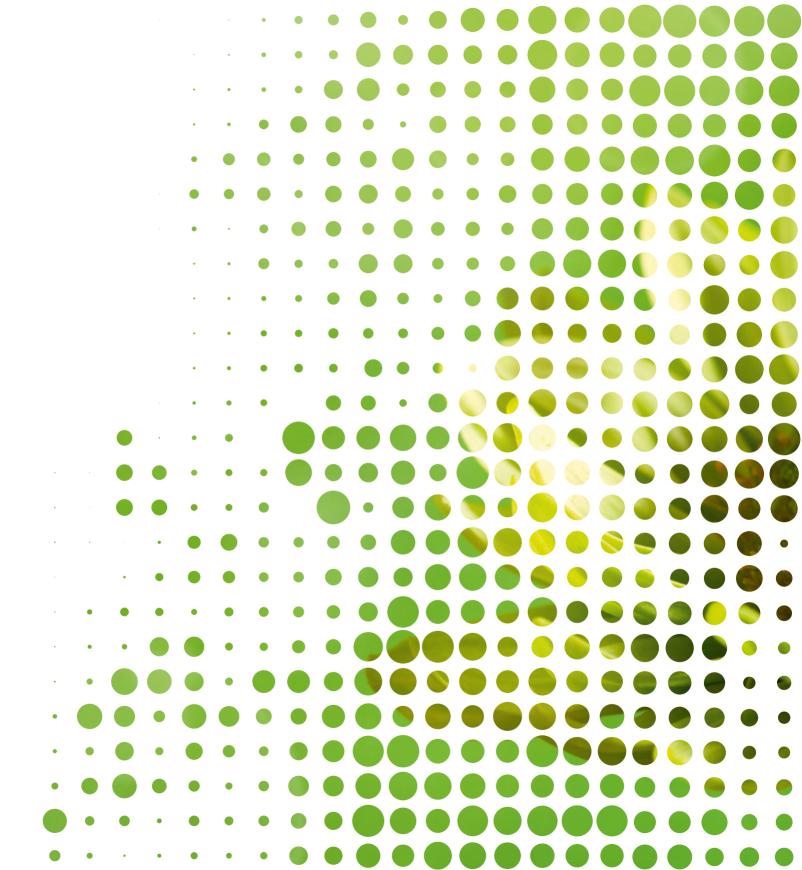
- · Climate Adapt tool Prioritisation of Adaptation Needs;
- Identification of Adaptation Options;
- Prioritisation of Adaptation Options;
- Policy and Legal Changes.

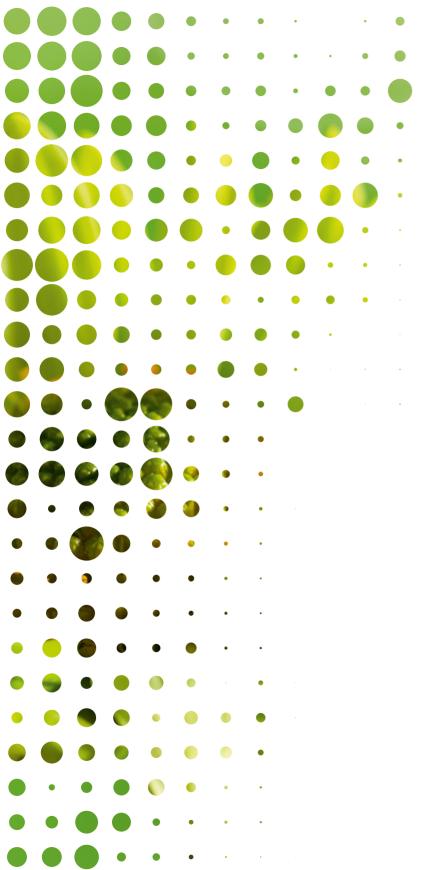
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The ECRAN Adaptation Programme includes a series of workshops that will guide the National ECRAN Adaptation Teams through the different stages towards developing national climate adaptation policies and legislation, combined with – in the period of January to April 2015 – regional training sessions that support Beneficiary Countries' experts from selected technical areas perform risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

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