

# IN FOCUS

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 3rd ECRAN Newsletter prepared by ECRAN Secretariat. The objective of this issue is to provide ECRAN stakeholders with the overview of events and topics covered by ECRAN and ECRAN related initiatives in the period October 2014 - March 2015.

3rd ECRAN Newsletter brings to you the information about activities related to:

- ECRAN Environment component;
- ECRAN Climate Change component;
- ECRAN Horizontal component;
- ECRAN cooperation with other related initiatives;

The ECRAN Team

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Environment Component – development of detailed work plans and programmes for 2015, Annual Working Group Meetings, regional capacity building;
- Climate Change Component – development of detailed work plan for 2015, Annual Meeting, regional capacity building;
- Horizontal Component – development of detailed work plans and programmes for 2015, Annual Meetings, Progress Monitoring 2015, Environment and Climate Forum;
- Cooperation with related networks and initiatives;
- Upcoming ECRAN events.

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of Environmental Assessment Working Group (26 November 2014, Vienna, Austria)**

The 2nd Annual Meeting of Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG) was held on 26 October 2014, in Vienna. General objective of the meeting was to get a feedback on the activities of the EAWG implemented during 2014 and agree on the detailed plan of activities for 2015.

Main outputs of the EAWG produced during 2014 were presented and discussed, along with the work plan for 2015, focusing on the organisation of the SEA/EIA national Training of Trainers (ToT) modules, organisation of 2nd regional Training of Trainers module, and joint events planned with the Nature and Water Management Working Group.

The Annual Meeting resulted with the:

- Work plan for 2015 finalised providing specification for all country level SEA/EIA trainings to be supported within the ToT scheme;
- Agreement on the topics and timing for implementation of the 2nd ToT module;
- Agreement on preparation of study visit to EU MS in cooperation with Water Management WG.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/49>

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of IED/Chemicals Working Group (10 February 2015, Vienna, Austria)**

2nd Annual Meeting of IED/Chemical Working Group was held in Vienna on 10 February 2015 with the purpose to evaluate progress made since the 1st Annual Meeting, to discuss possible improvements and to plan ahead for the activities in 2015.

Compared with earlier activities under RENA, the chemicals legislation is receiving now more attention and has been included in ECRAN as a subject in combination with the IED. The importance of the subject is also reflected in the work programme of IMPEL, the network for environmental inspectors in EU member states. Within IMPEL the interlinkages between REACH and IED are being analysed. IMPEL has been one of networks ECRAN has been cooperating with in the design and delivery of planned capacity building activities. Involvement of experts participating in similar IMPEL activities and also those involved in ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) enables sharing, explaining and training participants on the various new tools and guidance products provided by these organisations.

The meeting resulted with the agreement on the detailed work plan of the IED/Chemicals Working Group for 2015. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/56>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of Nature Working Group (11 February 2015, Vienna, Austria)**

2nd Annual Meeting of Nature Working Group (NWG) was organised on 11 February 2015 in Vienna. The objectives of the Annual Meeting were to provide NWG National Coordinators with the report on the activities implemented in 2014 and to discuss and approve the work plan of activities to be implemented in 2015.

Main outputs of the WG produced during 2014 were presented and discussed, along with the work plan for 2015, focusing on the organisation of the study visit to Czech Republic to demonstrate to participants function of Natura 2000 Network in practice, organisation of 1st regional workshop on CITES in close cooperation with EC DG Environment and selection of topics and timing for organisation of regional public awareness seminars.

The Annual Meeting resulted with the:

- Work plan for 2015 finalised and approved;
- Agreement on the structure of country reports within the task "Assessment of readiness of ECRAN countries for Natura 2000 establishment".

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/57>

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of Water Management Working Group and the 3rd Screening Workshop at Pilot – Drina River Basin (10-12 March 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro)**

2nd Annual Meeting of Water Management Working Group (WMWG) was organised back to back with the 3rd Regional Screening Workshop at Pilot Drina River Basin in Podgorica on 10-12 March 2015. The main objective of the 2nd annual Working Group meeting was to reach consensus on the Water Management WG Work Plan for 2015 and to identify topics (key issues and challenges) for developing synergies for capacity building with other WGs within ECRAN, as well as with other related initiatives.

The Annual Meeting resulted with the:

- Work plan for 2015 finalised and approved;
- Agreement on the approach to be used by the WMWG to deliver the expected results of the project for all related tasks.

Following the 2nd annual meeting, the 3rd screening workshop was organised with the aims to present:

- The methodology for drafting the Drina RBM Plan and its Program of Measures;
- Relevant background documents for work to be conducted on the selected pilot site, screening templates assessments, follow up trainings.

The meeting resulted with the agreement on the detailed work plan of the IED/Chemicals Working Group for 2015. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/58>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of Waste Management and Strategic Planning and Investments Working Groups and Regional workshop on Cost recovery in waste sector (18-19 March 2015, Tirana, Albania)**

2nd Annual joint meeting of Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) and Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group (SPIWG) was held on 18 and 19 March 2015 in Tirana, back to back with the Regional Workshop on Cost Recovery in Waste Sector. Wider objective of the meeting and the workshop was to provide practical knowledge on experience of other countries and support establishment of cost-recovery mechanisms in the region.

The Annual Meeting resulted with the:

- Work plans for 2015 for both WGs finalised and approved.

Regional workshop was organised to follow up on the needs of the countries identified during 2014, confirming that many countries in the region still lack well established methodologies for cost recovery. This problem is growing with each new investment into waste management operations. Thus, the objective of the workshop was to better assess the situation and propose ways for strengthening of cost recovery policies and provide wide range of economic instruments in support of source separation and achieving recycling targets. The meeting also included:

- Establishment of common understanding on main terms, definitions and principles for cost recovery in waste sector;
- Provision of information on economic incentives for better waste management supporting achievement of waste recycling, biodegradable waste diversion and other targets as required by the EU waste management law;
- Presentation and discussion on legal basis and institutional mechanisms for tariff setting;
- Analysis of impacts of cost recovery for investment projects and process planning;
- Familiarisation with cost – benefit analysis and application of it in waste management sector;
- Agreement on next steps.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/60>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Introductory Workshop on Economic Analysis in Accordance with WFD (21-22 October 2014, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia)**

Joint workshop of Water Management Working Group (WMWG) and Strategic Planning and Investment Working Group (SPIWG) on Economic Analysis in Accordance with WFD was held on 21-22 October 2014 in Skopje. The aim of the meeting was to provide practical knowledge on the cost-recovery principle through water pricing and to share recent experience in undertaking package of measures for institutional structure and policy framework of water utility sector to achieve better recovery of the costs of water services as required by the WFD and other water directives.

The results of the meeting, among all, targeted the following issues:

- Establishment of common understanding on main terms related to water pricing and water pricing structures and schemes;
- Presentation and discussion of legal basis of water pricing in EU with practical examples from the selected Member States (Croatia and Lithuania);
- Presentation and discussion of the structure of different types of water services, pollution charges, taxes, supporting measures, economic instruments and price development along with basic requirement of WFD, DW, and UWWTDD;
- Presentation and discussion policy frameworks and institutional setup (regionalisation) of the water utility sector;

- Analysis of impacts of cost recovery for investment projects and process planning;
- Familiarisation with cost – benefit analysis and application of it in water sector
- Agreement on next steps.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/35>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Regional Training on Transposition and Implementation of Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) (21-22 October 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)**

ECRAN Regional Training on Transposition and Implementation of Waste Framework Directive was organised in Podgorica, on 21-22 October 2014, with the aim to provide the participants with experience of Member States in implementation of Waste Framework Directive (WFD). The workshop was organised in collaboration with the experts from INTRADEL, public service for management of waste /72 municipalities for a total of 1,019,541 inhabitants who addressed the topics related to waste prevention, reuse and recycling, end-of-waste status and by-product, and also WFD provisions for producer responsibility. Representative of the EC DG Environment, presented the latest achievements in the implementation of WFD and transition from landfilling to other waste management systems in the EU MS and beyond. Representative of the Estonian Ministry of Environment provided excellent example of transposition and implementation of WFD in Estonia prior and after the accession to the EU.

The results of the workshop were as follows:

- Improved skills on implementation of Waste framework Directive;
- Improved understanding of the definition of waste and the status of by-products and end-of waste;
- Participants are familiarised on how Member States implement Waste framework Directive;
- Better planning process in the field of Waste Management.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/36>

### **ECRAN Regional Training Workshop on Linkages between Appropriate Assessment and SEA/EIA (30-31 October 2014, Zagreb, Croatia)**

Regional training workshop on Linkages between Appropriate Assessment and SEA/EIA was organised as a joint event of Environmental Assessments and Nature Working Groups in order to discuss the bottlenecks in the implementation of environmental assessments, but also in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote cooperation between the participants of these two ECRAN Working Groups. The workshop was held on 30-31 October 2015 in Zagreb.

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Results achieved on the workshop are following general and specific objectives, and they cover:

- Introduction of similarities and differences between AA and EIA/SEA;
- Illustration of the best practice of AA and EIA/SEA application as parallel processes;
- Provision of recommendations on conducting these processes in the participants' countries.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/37>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Regional Training on the Process of Designation of Potential Natura 2000 Sites (04-05 November 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)**

Regional Training on the Process of Designation of Potential Natura 2000 Sites was organised on 04-05 November 2015 in Podgorica.

The key EU instrument of nature protection across the EU MS is the Natura 2000 network – the world's biggest network of areas protected and conserved for particular habitat types and species. It is composed of sites dedicated to conservation of birds (SPA) and selected fauna, flora and habitat types (SCIs) established pursuant to the EU Nature Directives – Bird Directive (147/2009/EU) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Taking the importance of Natura 2000 into account, ECRAN countries need to be provided with a clear idea on data, expertise, time and funding requirements for achieving what is expected under "Natura 2000 network". At the same time they need to be fully and truthfully informed about the consequences of establishment of Natura 2000 network. Therefore, this regional training was designed to address all these issues in a way pointing out specificities of the ECRAN region.

The following results were achieved on the workshop:

- Improved understanding of the Natura 2000 network;
- Familiarity with the requirements of European Commission – DG Environment and its expert body ETC/BD as well as with settled practice of Ornithology and Habitats Committees;

- Familiarity with type and quality of data needed;
- Familiarity with interrelationship between Natura 2000, Emerald network and some other activities developed by international treaties and NGOs;
- Getting practical and realistic information on capacity, time and resources needed for Natura 2000 preparation;
- Opportunity to confront own ideas with the experience of practitioners from EU MS and EEA.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/39>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Regional Workshop on Coordination of Strategic and Investment Planning in Waste Sector (25-26 November 2014, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia)**

Regional Workshop on Coordination of Strategic and Investment Planning in Waste Sector was held on 25-26 November 2014 in Skopje. The aim of the workshop was to provide participants with information, share experience and extend capacities in participating countries in strategic planning and related waste management infrastructure development in order to achieve EU acquisition requirements in waste sector.

EU requirements for waste management are very demanding and thus, EU sets number of targets to be achieved by the Member States, including implementation Waste Framework Directive, Landfill Directive, and Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. Achievement of these targets require careful strategic planning and elaboration of national planning documents like National waste management plan, Waste prevention plan, Biodegradable waste management strategy, plans for management of other waste streams.

Achievements of the workshop include improved skills in strategic waste management planning, improved understanding regarding interrelation between delivery of targets and selection of technological solutions and understanding regarding infrastructure solutions and impacts on financing needs.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/46>

### **ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (AA) Part I: Theory of AA and the Screening Stage (12-14 November 2014, Ankara, Turkey)**

Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (AA) Part I: Theory of AA and the Screening Stage was held in Ankara from 12-14 November 2014, with site visit to Lake Tuz.

The objective of the whole series of sub-regional workshops on the AA is to provide ECRAN Beneficiaries with the complete picture of the AA from its very beginning (screening) up to the final decision on the acceptability of the project. The entire process is divided into three workshops, each of them corresponding to relevant stage of the AA according to the Habitats Directive.

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The results of the workshop were:

- Improved understanding of the objectives of Natura 2000 network and the role of AA as one of its protective tools in its maintenance;
- Familiarisation with particular requirements of AA in light of CJEU rulings;
- Understanding the differences from and similarities with the EIA;
- Familiarisation with the pilot site and pilot project (Lake Tuz);
- Learning about the 1st stage of AA (screening) and undertaking the screening for the pilot site;
- Sharing experience with a new EU MS relevant for the region with AA implementation.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/47>

## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Capacity Building on Compliance with Chemical Legislation, with emphasis on REACH/CLP linked to IED-Procedures (02-04 December 2014, Tirana, Albania)**

Capacity Building on Compliance with Chemical Legislation, with emphasis on REACH/CLP linked to IED-Procedures Workshop was held from 02-04 December 2014 in Tirana, as Module 2 Training in a series of four trainings. The general objective of the training was to strengthen regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of environment and climate action and to assist them on their way towards the transposition and implementation of the EU environmental and climate policies and instruments which is a key precondition for EU accession.

The Module 2 training was carried out as a regional training workshop which followed the Module 1 training focusing on the general introduction on the main elements and procedures under REACH and CLP Regulation. This training emphasized the specific obligations for authorities, methodologies and tools in risk assessment, REACH implementation details and interlinks of the REACH with IED (IMPEL project 2013 and results 2014).

The Module 2 training included the visit to the selected pilot site being Bankers Petroleum Albania Ltd located in Fier. The topics addressed at the pilot site were focused on the: Liquid soil waste treatment, separation and monitoring; Chemicals storage and Chemicals classified as dangerous for environment and existing measures.

The results of the training include improved functioning of the environmental authorities and related authorities envisaged to be responsible for implementation of the REACH/CLP regulations and IED and acknowledgment of a streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/51>



## ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

### **ECRAN National Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Albania (11-12 march 2015, Tirana, Albania)**

ECRAN National Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Albania was held on 11-12 March 2015 in Tirana, as the first country level event within the Training of Trainees scheme (ToT).

The scheme has been developed within ECRAN Environmental Assessment Working Group, which consists of altogether three ToT events inviting 3 trainers from each country. In between the ToT workshops the trainers are supposed to conduct training(s) in their respective countries. General objective of the workshop was to introduce concept of SEA to the national sectorial authorities and experts.

The workshop aimed to:

- Increase understanding of SEA principles and options for its practical application among participants;
- Increase training skills of trainers involved in the ToT;
- Receive comments on the training materials in order to consider them in its further updates.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/62>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting of Climate Component (15 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium)**

2nd Annual Meeting of Climate Component took place on 15 January 2015 in Brussels. Positive feedbacks have been received from the ECRAN beneficiaries on the achievements and activities implemented within the ECRAN Climate Component in 2014.

The topics addressed at the meeting were the following:

- Appropriateness of planned actions under the ECRAN Climate Component and need for improvements and/or adjustments;
- Maximising benefits and opportunities to be generated through the ECRAN Climate Component: follow up actions and coordination with other initiatives;
- Agreement on proposed actions in the ECRAN Climate 2015 Work plan;
- Potential post 2015 ECRAN Climate activities.
- Preparation of INDCs for the upcoming COP Paris meeting.

The meeting resulted with the endorsement of the proposed work plan for 2015 and plan of actions for support to be provided to the countries in the process of preparation of their INDCs for the upcoming COP Paris meeting.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/52>

### **ECRAN Contribution to the 2015 Agreement and Planning Decarbonisation (28-29 October 2014, Brussels, Belgium)**

Contribution to the 2015 Agreement and Planning Decarbonisation workshop was organised on 28-29 October 2014 in Brussels. This workshop is a follow-up of the first workshop on regional capacity for developing low emission strategies and modelling held in Zagreb in January 2014.

General objective of the workshop was to strengthen regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of climate action and to assist them on their way towards the transposition and implementation of the EU climate policies as a key precondition for EU accession. It also promoted and established an enabling environment for further development of national climate policies converging with EU climate acquis and to provide support to beneficiaries preparing their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to the 2015 Global Climate Agreement.

The topics addressed at the meeting were the following:

- Familiarisation with the requirements for intended contributions which are to be submitted prior to the Conference of the Parties to be held in Paris in 2015;
- The development methodology behind the EU 2030 policy framework for climate and energy and the supporting role of modelling;
- Examples provided of EU member state and stakeholder practices of the long-term climate modelling development;
- Examples of EU member states developing long-term climate policy scenarios and strategies, and the role of modelling in these developments.
- Strengths, weaknesses and needs of the ECRAN beneficiaries were discussed

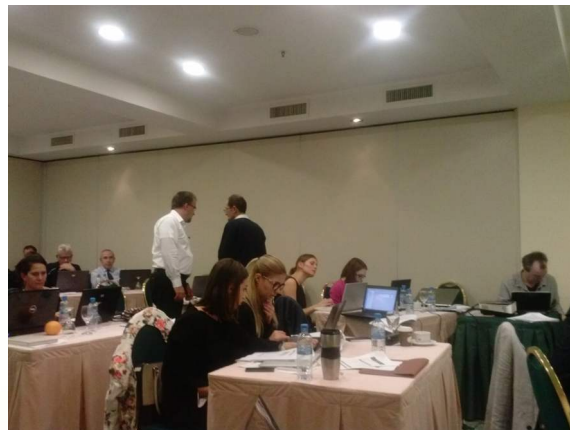
For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/38>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

**ECRAN Modelling: Training Module 1 – Practical Training on Quantitative Models and Scenario Development to be used to access Climate and Energy Policy options and to set emission targets (04-07 November 2014, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia)**

Practical Training on Quantitative Models and Scenario Development to be used to access Climate and Energy Policy options and to set emission targets is a first in line of four trainings to be conducted during the year, and it was held from 04-07 November 2014 in Skopje. The focus of the training was on one specific modelling platform, the Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning System (LEAP) which has been developed by the Stockholm Environmental Institute.

Main task of the workshop was to strengthen regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of climate action and to assist them on their way towards the transposition and implementation of the EU climate policies as a key precondition for EU accession. The training program also aimed to increase technical capacities in the countries to allow them to carry out modelling of emission scenarios. The modelling aided scenario work will benefit countries by helping them meet their future EU and UNFCCC reporting requirements, and to form a rational position on national efforts contributing to the EU 2050 roadmap and the 2030 Framework



For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/40>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Advanced Technical Training Programme on the EU Monitoring and Reporting Regulations (18-19 November 2014, Istanbul, Turkey)**

Advanced Technical Training Programme on the EU Monitoring and Reporting Regulations was held on 18-19 November 2014 in Istanbul. The training programme aimed to provide the authorities and operators of industrial installations in Turkey with an improved technical understanding of the EU Monitoring and Reporting regulation.

One of its key activities of Emission Trading WG is a regional training programme on the EU MRR and AVR that will support operators of industrial installations, aircraft operators, authorities and verifiers on the basis of guidance and templates that have been developed by the European Commission. This training is the first in line of three regional trainings on MRR that will be held.

The training provided in-depth insights in the Monitoring and reporting regulation, understanding of lessons learned, and understanding on the implemented regulation for monitoring and reporting in Turkey. Furthermore it provided practical examples on developing a Monitoring Plan and writing emissions reports to and optimally prepare for their tasks to develop the Monitoring Plan and emission reports for their own installations.



For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/41>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Regional Training Seminar on Assessment of GHG Inventories in the Energy and Industrial Processes Sectors (19-21 November 2014, Zagreb, Croatia)**

Regional Training Seminar on Assessment of GHG Inventories in the Energy and Industrial Processes Sectors was organised on 19-21 November 2015 in Zagreb, with the objective to gradually improve/increase technical knowledge and institutional and procedural capacities of the ECRAN countries to prepare submissions of the National Inventory Reports according to the requirements of the MMR.

The training seminar covered Module 3 of the multi-module series of workshops related to capacity building on GHG inventory process in Energy sector and task related to regional technical training seminars on GHG inventory in Industrial Processes sector.

The results of this training will feed into assessment report which will include recommendations for short and long-term inventory improvements in relation to applied methodology, activity data and emission factors in the beneficiary countries.

The following results were achieved from the regional exercise:

- Quality control check of key categories with focus on completeness and accuracy;
- Identification of activity data gaps and providing recommendations and guidance for gap filling;
- Improved skills in selecting emission factors and other calculation parameters in Energy and Industrial Process sector;
- Setting priorities for country-specific short and long-term GHG inventory improvements.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/43>

### **ECRAN National ECRAN Adaptation Teams Launch Workshop – Step A (24-25 November 2014, Tirana, Albania)**

National ECRAN Adaptation Teams Launch Workshop was held on 24-25 November 2014 in Tirana, as the first out of four steps and a start-up of the ECRAN Adaptation Programme that include 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 regional training sessions that support Beneficiary Countries' experts from selected technical areas to carry out risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

The programme envisages three regional trainings with three priority fields that are proposed for these trainings, Water Management, Urban Areas (Physical Planning) and Energy.

Objectives of the workshop were to promote climate adaptation action in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey, and to enhance the understanding about climate adaptation action among a core of Beneficiary countries' representatives, creating climate adaptation policies and planning as a basis for action.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/45>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Expert Training on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning – Water Management Sector (19-20 January 2015, Ankara, Turkey)**

Expert Training on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning in Water Management Sector was held in Ankara on 19-20 January 2015, as first in line of three workshops of ECRAN Adaptation Programme.

The workshop aimed to promote climate adaptation action in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey and to enhance the understanding about climate adaptation action in the water sector among a core of Beneficiary countries' representatives.

Achieved results are as follows:

- Strengthened awareness and understanding of climate change adaptation needs and options among water sector experts from Western Balkan countries and Turkey established;
- Improved understanding of (the applicability of tools for) risk and vulnerability assessment in the water sector, including the applicability of the Climate Adapt Tool;
- Foundation for improved cooperation and coordination among authorities in Western Balkan countries and Turkey in the area of climate adaptation action established;
- Awareness of the need to speed up and enhance climate adaptation action planning in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/53>

### **ECRAN Expert Training on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning – Urban Planning and Development Sectors (24-25 February 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro)**

Expert Training on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning in Urban Planning and Development Sectors was held on 24-25 February 2015 in Podgorica, a second in line of three workshops of ECRAN Adaptation Programme.

Objectives of the training were to promote climate adaptation action in the beneficiary countries, as well as to enhance the understanding about climate adaptation action in the urban planning and development sector among a core of countries' representatives.

Using the Climate Adapt Tool, as well as other available tools, the participants were guided through the framework and process of assessing climate-related risks and vulnerabilities in their own technical areas. The Adaptation Planning part of the training covered a general introduction to this area. More detailed adaptation planning training activities will be carried out under second step of the Programme.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/54>



## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Modelling: Support Mission to Module 1 (16-17 March 2015, Tirana, Albania)**

Support Mission to Module 1 Workshop was organised on 16-17 March 2015 in Tirana, for three beneficiary countries, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, in order to provide support for those participants of the training programme who are less familiar with modelling and the LEAP modelling environment.

The specific objective of the training program was to increase technical capacities in the countries to allow them to build technical capacities to carry out modelling of emission scenarios, with the purpose of enabling them to carry out emission scenario modelling work.

The first four-day long meeting was organized in Skopje in November 2014 and aimed to give an introduction to the participants to the policy environment, give an introductory training on LEAP as well as provide initial steps in filling the LEAP structure with country relevant data, building up the basic model. Three more modules of training will follow along with homework within the yearlong program. Completion of the support workshop is necessary to be conducted before the start of the second module of the training program that will start in April 2015, in order to have similar knowledge basis for the participants who came with different background.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/59>

\* 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 Regional Training on INDCs – Contributions to the Global Climate Agreement II (18 March, Tirana, Albania)**

Regional Training on INDCs Contributions to the Global Climate Agreement II was held on 18 March 2015 in Tirana, it presents a third workshop and it is a follow-up on the October 2014 workshop in Brussels, and January 2014 Workshop in Zagreb.

The focus of the workshop was UNFCCC negotiation process toward the successful Paris outcome and the preparation of INDCs by beneficiaries in order to have their INDCs submitted before COP21. General objective of the workshop was to provide information on the possible processes to develop the INDCs and recommendations on the content and format of INDC submission and to take stock on the existing expert work which can be used during those preparations.

The expected results were:

- Familiarisation of participants with the recent developments regarding the intended nationally determined contributions to the 2015 Global Climate Agreement;
- Introduction to the work towards guidance materials useful for INDC preparations and stocktake of the modelling work potentially useful for beneficiaries for their INDC preparations;
- Discussion of the challenges regarding the INDC preparations

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/63>

## CLIMATE COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Regional Seminar on ETS Implementation and ETS Strategy Development (25-26 March 2015, Zagreb, Croatia)**

Regional Seminar on ETS Implementation and ETS Strategy Development was organised on 25-26 March 2015 in Zagreb targeting policy makers, regulators, and competent groups in the authorities.

Knowledge and expertise obtained at these seminar should result in an ETS implementation roadmap in which priorities are set for the implementation steps and the technical capacity needs of beneficiaries modelled along the EU ETS. The seminar also aimed to Exchange best practices in the implementation of emissions trading systems within the region, and between the EU Member State representatives and their counterparts in the beneficiary countries

The participants on the seminar acquired:

- Insight in the approaches and experiences in EU ETS implementation in EU Member States and candidate countries;
- Better understanding of the required resources for the implementation of specific elements of an ETS system in conformity with the EU ETS requirements (time, financial, capacity);
- Insights in the lessons learned, risks and bottlenecks of ETS implementation.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/61>

## HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 2nd ECENA Annual Meeting (10 February 2015, Vienna, Austria)**

2nd ECENA Annual Meeting was held on 10 February 2015 in Vienna. In 2014, seven capacity building actions were implemented, such as technical training workshops, missions, network participation and site visits on various topics as regards the EU environment acquis. Annual meeting included the evaluation progress of ECRAN ECENA Working group meeting, discussion of possible improvements and planning activities in 2015.

The following issues were addressed in this meeting:

- Appropriateness of planned actions under the ECRAN ECENA Component and need for improvements and/or adjustments;
- Maximising benefits and opportunities to be generated through the ECRAN/ECENA Component: follow up actions and coordination with other initiatives;
- Agreement on proposed actions in the ECRAN/ECENA 2015 Work plan;
- Potential post 2015 ECRAN/ECENA activities.

The meeting has been used as additional opportunity for networking and exchange of experience between the ECRAN/ECENA country coordinators, ECRAN staff and the European Commission. The results of the meeting have been used as an input for the ECENA activities under the ECRAN horizontal Component for which the framework was already agreed during the first Annual ECENA Meeting

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/55>

## HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

### **ECRAN 1st Annual Meeting of the Environment and Climate Forum (ECF) (24-25 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium)**

The first AM of the project took place in Brussels, 24 – 25 November 2014, with the objective of providing information on updates of EU policies and legislation in environment and climate sectors. The two main themes identified were Climate Change and Water Management. These two topics were identified as the most pressing areas in the kick-off meeting discussion of the ECF (May 2014). The NGOs highlighted the lack of progress in both areas and their importance for this stage of the EU accession process.

The agenda of the meeting was designed with the purpose of addressing the selected themes/topics identified by the NGOs and the European Commission (EC). At the same time, it was space for discussion of NGO and EC DG Environment and DG Climate Action representatives on the perspectives, current state of affairs and progress of the EU accession process and highlighting bottlenecks in the EU acquis, adoption and implementation. It also enabled the discussion on improving the scope and quality of public involvement and dialogue.

The meeting improved the knowledge base of ECF NGOs on EU policies and legislation, and supported in-depth understanding of opportunities and challenges for NGOs and public involvement. The meeting further enhanced the knowledge of the ECF NGOs on legislative and policy requirements, particularly in future challenges for the ECRAN countries. It also provided an opportunity for NGOs to better understand the possibilities and potential challenges of the enlargement process with involvement for non-state actors, and allowed discussion into the monitoring and participation in the EU enlargement process.



For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/50>

## HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Methodological Development – Application of IRAM/easy Tools (15-16 October 2014, Ankara, Turkey)**

Within IMPEL various tools have been developed for inspection purposes. Pursuant to the Recommendation providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections (RMCEI), the Industrial Emission Directive (IED) and the Directive on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (SEVESO) all inspections should be planned in advance. The competent authority must draw up inspection plans and programs for installations and establishments, including the frequency of site visits. These frequencies should be based on a systematic risk appraisal.

Under the name 'easy Tools' a project team, led by Germany, collected information on the risk assessments that are used across Europe. Based on this information a new rule based methodology was developed and tested, called Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM). Besides the methodology, IRAM also includes a web based tool (IRAM tool) that can be accessed by the IMPEL website.

To disseminate this useful methodology, up to 2 regional trainings have planned to be organised for all ECRAN beneficiary countries at a general level. The training course in Ankara was the first in the series designed and delivered in cooperation with IMPEL experts from Germany responsible for development of IRAM easy Tools methodology.

Objectives of the workshop were to increase the effectiveness of inspection bodies, to promote compliance with environmental requirements as well as to increase capacity of ECRAN beneficiary countries in the field of planning of inspections with specific reference to the use of the IRAM/Easy Tools methodology.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/32>

### **ECRAN Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Nature Inspection (21-23 October 2014, Osijek, Kopacki Rit, Croatia)**

Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation on Nature Inspection was held on October 21-23 in Osijek with site visit to Kopacki Rit Nature Park with the objective to increase capacity in the field of planning of Nature Inspection with attention for cross border cooperation and cross-cutting issues.

Under inspection and enforcement in other policy areas a link has been made to Nature Inspection, building on the activities delivered under ECENA in this area in the previous period. Considering that in the area of nature protection, the target institutions and beneficiaries are the Ministries responsible for legislation in the environmental acquis, a special focus has now been placed on the enforcement aspects in nature protection (e.g., Habitats (92/43/EEC, in particular related to Annex V) and Wild birds (2009/147/EC) Directives).

The training was delivered in cooperation with EU MS experts from Austria, Germany, Romania and Scotland.

The following results are derived from this activity:

- Improved knowledge base and understanding of the required legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects in cross border nature protection areas at key staff of the inspection bodies;
- Strengthened regional network of SEE professionals and experts in nature protection areas with its compliance and enforcement aspects.
- Improved knowledge of a number of related and cross-cutting issues.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/33>

## HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Multi-country Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation (18-20 November 2014, Istanbul, Turkey)**

Multi-country Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation Workshop was held from 18-20 November in Istanbul. The workshop is one in series of eight follow-up modules each to be held in one of the beneficiary countries.

The training covered mainly the RMCEI, IED Directive, SEVESO and Water Framework Directive (Cross cutting issues IED/WFD). Host country presented their experience in inspection management, while each of the beneficiary countries presented their current level of IPPC/IED implementation, achieved progress and planned actions. Experience of EU MS public administration from the Netherlands, Austria, Romania and Bulgaria on the training topics was presented to participants. Practical part of the training was done through site visit to the selected IPPC installation, Rayon Textile Industries and Foreign Trade Ltd. Tekirdağ.

Training participants were divided into three groups:

- Group 1 (Water consumption and discharges);
- Group 2 (Chemicals)
- Group 3 (Waste/Energy consumption/Air emissions).

The following results were achieved:

- Improved functioning of the environmental authorities and related authorities envisaged to be responsible for implementation of the REACH/CLP regulations and IED;
- Streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards the EU standards.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/42>



## HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

### **ECRAN Technical Aspects of the EU Accession Process: Improving the Knowledge Base on Scope and Opportunities for Civil Society Involvement (20-21 November 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)**

Regional Workshop on the Technical Aspects of the EU Accession Process was organised on 20-21 November 2014 in Podgorica.

The main objective of the workshop was improvement of the knowledge base on the scope and opportunities for NGO involvement in the EU Accession Process alongside with the public administration representatives.

The objectives of the Workshop included:

- Progress with implementation of regional capacity building programme, test methodology adopted and set up system of cooperation among the project team, trainers and beneficiaries;
- Explanation and provision of holistic picture on the general guiding principles in the EU accession process, discussion on roles and responsibilities of the key actors and identification of opportunities for the civil society involvement;
- Knowledge improvement, know-how and skill of the civil society representatives in technical aspects of negotiations, key policies and steps;
- Provision of support for better implementation of legislation, better information sharing and public involvement through professional non-state actors' participation in process.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/44>

### **PROGRESS MONITORING 2015 – Reporting Year No.18**

The purpose of the Progress Monitoring (PM) in preparation for accession is to provide an updated, comprehensive overview of the current situation in the beneficiary countries concerning the status of transposition and implementation of environment and climate acquis as well as identifying the progress achieved on yearly basis in each of the beneficiary countries. Progress Monitoring exercise has been launched in January 2015, organised by EC in cooperation with ECRAN. Project team has kicked start the activity with the submission of the updated ToCs and IQs to the counterparts in the beneficiary countries. Kick off Progress Monitoring meetings to discuss the methodology for update of the ToCs and the IQs will be delivered at demand in the period March – May 2015.



## ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

### **Dinaric Arc Parks (DAP) International Conference, Regional Cooperation of Nature Protected Areas (7-8 October 2014, Brijuni, Croatia)**

International Conference on Regional Cooperation of Nature Protected Areas of Dinaric Arc Parks (DAP) was organised on 7-8 October 2014 in Brijuni.

The event was marked by the topic of sustainable tourism in protected areas. There were 150 conference participants coming from 13 countries discussing on how to improve the parks they work in. While five parks from the region - Medvednica and Lonjskopolje (Croatia), Frušagora and GornjePodunavlje (Serbia) and Una (Bosnia and Herzegovina) are waiting for positive news about their certification by the Europarc's European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, the other parks were trying to grasp the benefits of this certification process during workshop on "Dinaric Arc Parks tips for sustainable tourism" and started thinking about following their colleagues' lead.

After concluding the conference, 60 protected areas from eight countries from the region signed the Declaration and hence set the foundations for establishment of the future Association, Parks Dinarides – The Network of Protected Areas Dinarides.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments and explore options for further cooperation.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.discoverdinarides.com/>

### **1st meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG) (13-14 October 2014, Barcelona, Spain)**

1st meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG) was held on 13-14 October 2014. The meeting marked an initial vital step towards setting the Mediterranean agenda against climate change and it presents a follow-up to the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, held in Athens in May 2014.

The meeting was a kick off cooperation on climate action in the Mediterranean region where Climate experts from the UfM member states, the EU and a number of stakeholders and international financial institutions such as UNEP/MAP, EIB and EBRD agreed on a work plan for 2014-2015 as well as on modalities for cooperation.

The UfM Climate Change Expert Group set in motion a multilateral and multi-stakeholder platform for the exchange of information, best practices and concrete cooperation opportunities among UfM Member States in the field of climate change. During this first gathering and according to the main themes of action identified and discussed, a work programme was approved as a roadmap for the coming months.

The UfM Climate Change Expert Group will meet at least once a year in order to identify regional projects that could be endorsed and promoted by the UfM as well as to readjust and discuss priorities in the region.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments and explore options for further cooperation.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://ufmsecretariat.org/>

## ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

### **EUFJE Conference “Impact Assessment – Preventive Measures Against Significant Environmental Impacts in the 21st Century” (17-18 October 2014, Budapest, Hungary)**

Annual Conference of the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment 2014 held in Budapest on 17 and 18 October 2014. The subject of the Conference was Environmental Impact Assessment. Under this topic, access to information, public participation in decision making procedure in EIA and administrative and judicial review also discussed in the Conference.

The conference participants ceremonially signed the EUFJE Budapest 2014 Conference Declaration on Environmental Responsibility by which the invited representatives of the EU Member States recognised their environmental responsibility and proposed measures to be taken for the purposes of environmental protection.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.eufje.org/>

### **EUROPOL EnviCrime Net Annual General Meeting (19-20 November 2014, The Hague, Netherlands)**

The fourth EnviCrimeNet Annual General Meeting, hosted by Europol in The Hague, took place on 19 and 20 November 2014.

Addressed activities included illegal trade of caviar in EU, illegal transport of waste as well as counterfeit pesticides that have devastating effects on crops and soils. An introduction to the environmental application of the Dutch National Police was given to the 43 delegates, who ranged from specialised investigators to specialised prosecutors. This app helps police officers to take the initial steps in combating environmental crime.

The Intelligence Project on Environmental Crime (IPEC), a joint project of the EnviCrimeNet and Europol, presented the preliminary results of a questionnaire that was sent to all EU Member States - they received 52 responses from 36 jurisdictions. The results will help strategic decision-makers on the EU level to assess whether environmental crimes should be a priority in the fight against serious and organised criminal threats by European law enforcement authorities.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

# ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

## Interpol Annual Meeting (25-27 November 2014, Lyon, France)

INTERPOL Environmental Security Sub-Directorate Annual Meetings of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee (ECEC) Working Groups were held from 25 to 27 November 2014, at the INTERPOL General Secretariat's Headquarters in Lyon. The official titles of the meeting were:

- 3rd Meeting of the Fisheries Crime Working Group;
- 19th Meeting of the Pollution Crime Working Group;
- 25th Meeting of the Wildlife Crime Working Group.

Primary objectives of the meeting covered:

- Identification of opportunities and risks associated within formation and intelligence sharing, data management and analysis responses;
- Discussion of obstacles and opportunities in achieving multi-agency law enforcement against fisheries, pollution and wildlife;
- Development of a timeline (including shortterm objectives) to bring about the objectives set up by the groups during the ECEC events in Nairobi, Kenya;

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-227>

## Clima East 3rd Steering Committee Meeting: Support to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in ENP East Countries and Russia Europe Aid /132127/C/SER/Multi (29 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium)

Clima East 3rd Steering Committee Meeting was held on 29 January 2015 in Brussels. The event aimed to incorporate group discussions regarding all aspects of the Clima East Project and optional, bilateral meetings between Key Experts and National Focal Points of the project's partner countries.

Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Russia and ENP East countries project supports partner countries in order to be better equipped for greenhouse gas emission reductions and better prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change. The programme aims to foster improved climate change policies, strategies and market mechanisms more in line with the EU acquis in the partner countries, by supporting regional cooperation and improving access to information regarding EU climate change policies/acquis.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.climaeast.eu/>

# ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

## Expert Missions

During the reporting period October 2014 – March 2015, several expert missions have been performed in beneficiary countries in different environmental areas, depending on the needs of the country. Expert missions were organised as follows:

- Introductory Missions for the Assessment of readiness to establish Natura 2000 network for the beneficiaries from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection in Serbian and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism in Montenegro (23 October 2014, Belgrade, 24 October 2014, Podgorica);
- Expert mission on Natura 2000 network assessment for the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in Kosovo (02-06 February 2015, Pristina, Prizren, Kosovo\*);
- Expert Mission - Natura 2000 Network Assessment Montenegro for the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (02-06 March 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro);
- Expert Mission - National expert mission on Chemicals Legislation in Albania (October 2014 – March 2015, Tirana, Albania);

\* 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.



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