



**SUBMISSION OF GOOD PRACTICES OF THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (REC) FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DIALOGUE ON ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THESE MATTERS**

1. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an international organisation that has been providing since 1990 assistance to its beneficiary countries in the region by helping communities to strengthen environmental governance, shifting to a low-carbon economy, building resilience to climate change, managing natural resources, and developing capacities for future environmental stewardship. The mandates, strategies and partnerships of the REC uniquely position the organization as a neutral platform and catalyst for policy dialogue and the advancement of regional and national debates in areas of emerging importance on the public agenda, as well as in those that require particular expertise and diplomatic engagement. The status of the REC as an independent, self-financing, non-partisan, non-advocacy and non-profit international organization has become a model for open, transparent, efficient and accountable international cooperation in Europe and beyond.

2. An admitted intergovernmental observer organization within the UNFCCC process, the REC has been acting as Regional Focal Point (RFP) for Article 6 of UNFCCC, fostering national efforts in the beneficiary countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), South Eastern Europe (SEE) and Turkey on the efficient implementation of Article 6 and the Doha work programme on Article 6 of UNFCCC. Since its designation as RFP, the ultimate goal of the REC has been to empower UNFCCC National Focal Points (NFP) on the implementation of their tasks under Article 6 of UNFCCC, to facilitate the exchange of information among NFPs and stakeholders, to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and information in national languages in the region, and to facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation. The work of the REC as RFP has been financially supported mainly by the Governments of Italy, Japan and the Netherlands as well as other resource partners of the REC.

3. Recognising the conclusion of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its 44<sup>th</sup> session to focus the sessions of the Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) on good practices and lessons learned on integrating the six elements of Article 6 of UNFCCC in relation to adaptation, mitigation, finance, transparency, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, the REC welcomes the opportunity of admitted observer organisations to submit its views on the agenda for the 5<sup>th</sup> Dialogue on ACE. The submission therefore emphasises good practices of the REC in the areas of climate change education, training and international cooperation in these matters within the strategic objectives of the REC as RFP.

4. The REC has been operating the EEA and Norway Grants for the Programme Area of Adaptation to Climate Change in Hungary. The aim of the programme has been to promote a clear understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability in Hungary, to promote actions for increased climate resilience at local level, to raise awareness of climate change impacts, and to show



examples of replicable projects reducing the impacts of climate change. The programme has been based in four main components focused on climate change and adaptation: The National Adaptation Geo-information System (NAGiS); Local climate change adaptation capacity building; 28 local climate change adaptation strategies; and 3 local pilot projects conducting investments to solve local water related problems induced by climate change.

5. The REC has been actively supporting low-emission development strategies processes through the Support for Low-Emission Development Strategies in South Eastern Europe (SLED) and the Low-Emissions Development Strategies for Eastern Europe and Eurasia (LEDS) projects. SLED has brought forth country-level assessments of the electricity and building sectors for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions up to 2030, while preparing a guidebook on scenario development for energy efficiency in buildings. It has also organised policy workshops on the findings of the scenario analysis in these two key sectors in selected countries of SEE. LEDS seeks to provide a network for knowledge sharing, support, interaction and learning to all those throughout the region who are working towards the goal of economic growth and development in ways that reduce the causes and effects of climate change. LEDS is set to create a regional knowledge management and communication platform to encourage the sharing of expertise and experience; coordinate resources and connect to other platforms for training and technical assistance; strengthen leadership and coordination to help governments identify and implement LEDS; direct expertise and support from around the world to governments working on LEDS; and create opportunities for dialogue on LEDS among governments, businesses and communities.

6. The REC has also extensively dealt with the training and education themes with international cooperation incidence in the form of its “Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform on Environment and Resource Efficiency” project. Through it, the REC has supported policy learning through the exchange of practices and experiences among relevant policy organisations with a view to improving the performance of policies and programmes for regional development. This practice has allowed regional and local public authorities, and other players of regional relevance across Europe, to exchange practices and ideas on the way public policies work, and thereby finding solutions to improve their strategies for their own policies, to maximise policy impact and to contribute to EU strategic objectives through interregional cooperation projects.

7. A presentation of these good practices performed by the REC, and in relation to the themes of the 5th Dialogue, would allow the participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dialogue on ACE to have an insight of successful, replicable measures on the critical issues concerning ACE.