

# 2013

ANNUAL REPORT

# Change is...



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

A large, colorful hot air balloon basket, composed of many segments in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, is shown from a low angle looking up. Inside the basket, a space shuttle is visible, with a bright orange flame at its base. The shuttle is positioned diagonally, pointing towards the top left. The text "...in the air" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**...in the air**

# **A dynamic year for the REC, 2013 saw the continuation of many key projects, the negotiation of new contracts, the opening up of new areas of expertise, and the launching of new partnerships.**

The Budapest Water Summit Civil Society Forum, organised by the REC, channelled civil society contributions to the preoperational phase of the sustainable development goals. The project Strengthening Local Environmental Planning and Environmental Civil Society in Belarus and Moldova continued successfully, and granting, capacity building and networking began with two projects supporting environmental civil society in Serbia and Albania.

The project Setting up the Environmental Management Center mobilised funds of EUR 2.6 million to build the capacities of the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, industries, public utilities and government authorities. In the framework of the European Economic Area (EEA) Norway Grants mechanism, the REC started to implement comprehensive activities under the programme area Adaptation to Climate Change, part of a five-year financial programme in Hungary with a total budget of EUR 7 million.

The complex task of establishing a country office in Ukraine is ongoing, and will include ratification of the international agreement of the REC and negotiation of the bilateral agreement. Projects in the fields of water management, biodiversity and local governance for the Ivano-Frankivsk region are in a preparatory phase.

The REC is working closely with the European Institute of Technology to support the Knowledge and Innovation Community on sustainable energy (KIC InnoEnergy) in outreach and take-up in the “new” EU and beyond. Training for almost 600 volunteers from civil society was organised in Istanbul, Turkey, on climate issues and solutions in cooperation with The Climate Reality Project founded by former US vice president Al Gore. During the year the REC also launched a new initiative in the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on green growth.

All these activities illustrate the REC’s continued efforts to bring about positive environmental change in Europe and beyond. I wish the REC further success and many new and inspiring projects and initiatives in the year ahead.

**ANDRZEJ KASSENBERG**

Chairman of the Board

# Statement of Contributions (in EUR)

December 31, 2013

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS 1990-2013	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL
Albania	351,095	0	351,095
Austria	3,944,584	0	3,944,584
Belgium	500,427	0	500,427
Bosnia and Herzegovina	343,074	0	343,074
Bulgaria	124,627	0	124,627
Canada	941,005	0	941,005
Croatia	61,594	0	61,594
Czech Republic	593,388	16,609	609,996
Denmark	4,099,725	0	4,099,725
Estonia	152,631	3,462	156,092
European Commission	58,215,521	0	58,215,521
Financial Mechanism	968,356	0	968,356
Finland	7,770,143	0	7,770,143
France	46,383	0	46,383
Germany	2,408,602	0	2,408,602
Hungary	1,342,399	6,085,452	7,427,851
Italy	17,386,608	0	17,386,608
Japan	12,034,784	1,162,517	13,197,301
Kosovo*	60,000	0	60,000
Latvia	188,979	0	188,979
Lithuania	8,513	0	8,513
Luxembourg	7,200	0	7,200
FYR Macedonia	621,411	0	621,411
Montenegro	2,100	10,000	12,100
The Netherlands	13,991,357	0	13,991,357
New Zealand	14,048	0	14,048
Norway	6,979,189	24,205	7,003,394
Poland	970,325	0	970,325
Romania	45,109	0	45,109
Serbia	53,285	0	53,285
Serbia & Montenegro	37,521	0	37,521
Slovakia	796,297	0	796,297
Slovenia	802,681	0	802,681
Spain	645,079	0	645,079
Sweden	18,864,279	0	18,864,279
Switzerland	5,139,624	0	5,139,624
United Arab Emirates	55,342	0	55,342
United Kingdom	1,562,478	0	1,562,478
UN/UNMIK	6,748,340	0	6,748,340
United States	11,988,759	100,997	12,089,756
Other organisations	11,291,431	8,617	11,300,048
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192,158,292</b>	<b>7,411,858</b>	<b>199,570,150</b>

\* 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.

# **Fresh focus, efficiency and flexibility were the key concepts guiding the internal restructuring of the REC during 2013, as part of which the organisation's country office network was streamlined in keeping with newly identified priorities and needs.**

The floods in June represented an additional challenge for operations in the REC's head office in Hungary. The level of the floodwater was the highest ever measured, causing substantial damage to REC premises.

Despite such adversity, 2013 was a very successful year in terms of the REC's project activities. The mid-term review of the implementation of the 2011–2015 strategy confirmed the REC's selection of priorities and its work methodology. Significant donor contributions were received. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude for the ongoing support of many partners, including the European Commission, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the US.

In line with the decision of the Board of Directors, preparations began during the year for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the REC in 2015. We plan to use this significant landmark as an opportunity for intensified dialogue with the REC's founders and supporters, environmental stakeholders, partners and friends, in order to obtain feedback on the work we have accomplished to date and to open up new perspectives for the future development of the organisation. I hope that we will soon benefit from the first positive results of this process.

**MARTA SZIGETI BONIFERT**

Executive Director

# **In a busy and eventful year for the REC, the organisation launched new initiatives, setting its sights high and aiming towards positive change in Europe and beyond.**

The REC's website features the full text of the annual report, including a round-up of project activities carried out by the REC's 12 topic areas: Biodiversity; Climate Change and Clean Energy; Educational Tools; Environmental Financing; Environmental Management; Smart Cities and Mobility; Health and Environment; Law Development, Enforcement and Compliance; Local Governance; Participatory Governance; the Sustainable Development Academy; and Water Management.

Visit the website and read about the benefits of the projects implemented by the REC as the organisation continues to contribute to positive environmental change.

**annualreport.rec.org**  
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**The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe**

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