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Strengthening the Implementation Capacities
for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation
in the Danube River Basin

Final Report
Second Grants Round
RER03/G31/A/1G/31

Project Component 3.2: Small Grants Programme

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Preface

This report was produced by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) as part of the Danube Regional Project (DRP), which was launched on August 2005, as part of the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environmental Facility (UNDP-GEF). This report covers the second round of granting of component 3.2 of the DRP – the 'Small Grants Programme' – which aims to strengthen and support NGO participation in Danube nutrient reduction by providing small grants for projects. This component is managed by the REC, through its head office in Hungary, in cooperation with its offices in the Danube basin countries.

In this report, the REC describes the second round of grants selection, which started in August, 2005, and was successfully finalised by January, 2006. The report describes the monitoring process of the grants, which took place from January, 2006, to March, 2007. It also provides a final analysis of the results of the grants, and their contributions towards nutrient reduction in the Danube.

As a result of the second round of granting, by January, 2006, a total of 62 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were awarded over USD 636,000, enabling them to contribute to nutrient reduction in eleven Danube Basin countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The REC, through its network, managed the monitoring of the selected projects at the national and regional levels. The majority of the objectives set out by the NGOs were successfully accomplished by March, 2007; the grants component managed to contribute to the nutrient reduction efforts of the whole Danube Regional Project by addressing agricultural, industrial and municipal sources of pollution.

The REC's mission is to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making. The REC has been involved in Danube environment-related projects since its inception in the early nineties, and has taken an active role in cooperating with key Danube players to enable NGO involvement in the international environmental initiatives related to the entire basin. Among other relevant stakeholders, the REC is closely cooperating with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Danube Environmental Forum. The Danube represents quite an important environmental subject for the REC. The REC took part on the Danube pollution Reduction Programme (1999–2001), enabling NGO contributions to the process of pollution reduction. Additionally, the REC participated in the ICPDR expert group developing the Danube River Basin Strategy for Public Participation in River Basin Management Planning 2003-2009, which was adopted by the ICPDR in June, 2003.

In the area of Public Participation, the REC implemented a medium-sized pilot project - Building Environmental Citizenship to Reduce Transboundary Pollution in the Danube - in Hungary and Slovenia from 2000 to 2002, which was also funded through GEF. Building on the results of this pilot project, a new component has been developed and integrated into the Danube Regional Project - Enhancing Support of Public Participation in Addressing Priority Sources of Pollution ('hot spots') through Improved Access to Information in the Frame of the EU Water Framework Directive (component 3.4) - which was implemented in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2004 to 2006.

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Abbreviations

CEE – Central Eastern Europe

CP – Concept Paper

DEF- Danube Environmental Forum

DRP – Danube Regional Project

FP – Full Proposal

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

REC – The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

UNDP/GEF – The United Nations Development Programme/Global Environmental Facility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project was designed to issue grants that enable environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries of the Danube Basin to contribute to the reduction of nutrients and toxic substances. Two rounds of granting were conducted at the regional and national levels throughout the project period. This summary describes the second round.

The second round of Danube Regional Project (DRP) grants followed the granting structure which was developed during the first round closely, with some additional steps added in response to feedback from NGOs and observations made during the first round. These lessons learned and applied included the introduction of grants training and media components. The grants documents - such as the announcements and guidelines - were revised in line with the NGO, experts and donor recommendations in order to reflect the outcomes of the independent monitoring which was conducted by the DRP expert Alexander Zinke after the first grants round selection. Information and experience gained by the project team during the grant monitoring was also taken into account, together with inputs from REC Country Offices.

As with the first round, grants were distributed at two levels:

- Nationally-based granting programmes for environmental NGOs in the Danube Basin, focusing on issues of national priority related to nutrients and toxic substances; and
- A regional grants programme promoting regional cooperation and supporting regional environmental projects being implemented by NGOs from CEE to address nutrient and toxic substance issues.

62 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia were awarded over USD 636,000 to contribute to nutrient reduction in the Danube Basin.

At the regional level, five multi-country projects were carried out. Their accomplishments include building bridges between stakeholders near the Hernad River in Hungary and the Sebes-Koros rivers in Romania; increasing public participation in the management of the Sava River Basin; promoting the best agricultural practices to reduce pollution from farming in lower Danube countries; and extolling the benefits of using re-usable diapers and environmentally friendly detergents in Slovenia and Croatia.

At the national level, 57 projects were supported. They included: Reducing pollution from Danube rivers, such as the Sava, Drina, Ipoly, Prut, Zitova and Maramures; campaigning for and promoting organic agriculture in Vukovar, Croatia, in the Morava River Basin in the Czech Republic, in Subotica, Serbia and Montenegro, and in Moldova; promoting best agricultural practices to eliminate nutrients and toxics in Croatia, Hungary, and Serbia and Montenegro; promoting environmentally friendly detergents in the Czech Republic and Slovenia; and implementing new wastewater cleaning systems for households and farms in Slovenia.

The majority of the national projects focused either on agricultural or municipal discharge. The two most prominent topics were promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development (i.e. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)), and addressing household waste management (i.e. the reduction of the use of conventional detergents). Dealing with agricultural and municipal discharge equally shared the largest proportions of all projects. Awareness-raising was the most common tool used.

The involvement of and cooperation with a variety of stakeholders - originating from different levels and backgrounds - is a highlight of the national grants; this contributed to the development of more participatory approaches to addressing pollution problems in the basin. Several partnerships were initiated among NGOs and industries, farmers, water management bodies, local authorities and scientific institutions through the grants where the NGOs played catalytic roles to facilitate multi-sectoral cooperation.

In their approaches, NGOs built on their expertise in lobbying, campaigning, working with public and local and central authorities. They focused on developing best practices and pilot projects for demonstration, and they provided alternative solutions to the current production and consumption patterns in the region. Increased attention was dedicated to working with the media; all involved NGOs built on the training provided within the project and had the possibility to share best practices and lessons learned in the Danube basin.

The projects implemented within the DRP contributed to the reduction of nutrients and toxic pollutants discharged into the basin by promoting organic agriculture and changes in people's behaviours and attitudes, raising awareness of space and resources use, strengthening local communities, fostering public involvement and participation in environmental decision making, and raising public awareness related to the wise use of chemicals in agriculture and soil-use related activities. The grants programme enforced the urgent need to strongly take into account environmental concerns and mobilize the public to foster a healthy environment and regularly practice sustainable development principles.

In conclusion, this second round of DRP regional grants can be considered a significant contribution towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin. Additionally, NGO project management skills and capacities were improved through the granting process via training sessions that took place during the second round. NGOs were able to share experiences and know how through out the granting process, which helped to enhance their knowledge and practices on nutrient and toxic pollution related issues.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The second phase of project implementation started with a review of the second round grants process in order to reflect lessons learned through the first round of granting, experiences from grants monitoring, comments from the NGOs, and the outcomes of the independent monitoring that was conducted by DRP expert Alexander Zinke after the first grants round selection. The review included meeting with the donor, experts and NGOs. Additionally, discussions on grants training took place and the decision was made that it should contain two elements: one which relates to the project proposal preparation in order to help NGOs focus on the nutrient reduction aspects of their work and be result oriented, and the second to NGOs working with the media and finding better ways to promote the project results through the grants.

As a result of the review, the grants announcement, guidelines, evaluation criteria, and process were finalised.

National grants in 10 Danube Countries¹

The terms of reference provided guidance to all countries, following tasks in the granting process, according to the REC's Grants Manual instructions:

- Announce the grants
- Select the concept ideas
- Train selected NGOs on LOG frame, public relations and media work
- Select full proposals
- Organise a winners meeting in each of the Danube Countries
- Manage grants monitoring
- Evaluate the grants' results with the help of indicators
- Disseminate information and results broadly

The total amount of national grants awarded in the second round was 458,834 USD. The amounts allocated to each country are noted in the table below. The maximum amount that was to be allocated to any one NGO project at the national level was 15,000 USD, though offices were advised to give over 10,000 USD only in special circumstances.

¹ The DRP grants beneficiary countries were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia. Moldovan NGOs were reached through the independent REC Moldova. Ukraine was excluded from the second grants round.

Country	Available Amount in USD	Awarded Amounts in USD
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50,000	49,972
Bulgaria	40,000	40,000
Croatia	50,000	48,865
Czech Republic	40,000	40,000
Hungary	50,000	49,997
Romania	50,000	50,000
Slovakia	50,000	50,000
Slovenia	40,000	40,000
Serbia and Montenegro	50,000	50,000
Moldova	40,000	40,000
Totals	USD 460,000	USD 458,834

Grants announcement

The grants call was announced in all 10 eligible countries in August, 2005. The concept paper selection process took place in September, 2005, and the winners of the first selection process were invited to the trainings.

Selection process

The grants selection process included two stages: Concept paper and full Proposal stages. The NGOs expressed their first interests through the concept paper stage. The first selection took place in September, 2005, in each of the countries with the contributions of the Local Advisory Boards (LAB), DEF Representatives and ICDPR representatives. Differing from the first round, this time the NGOs who wrote the best Concept papers was given the chance to attend trainings, which related mostly to proposal writing and media work.

Training

Short trainings were organised by the REC at the national level in each of the involved countries to assist selected NGOs at the Concept Paper level to prepare full proposals. Trainings on proposal writing, LOG Frame and media work were provided. The unified methodology and approach to the training - adjusted to the local conditions - was developed by REC HO and Cos, in collaboration with external experts. NGOs had the opportunity to improve their capacities in project writing, discuss their project ideas and receive in-depth information on donor priorities. The training was also used to strengthen partnerships between the involved NGOs and to help them learn from each other how to improve the impacts of different activities on Danube protection. The media part of the training was prepared jointly by a REC expert (Mr. Pavel Antonov) and a DRP expert (Mr. Paul Csagoly). They prepared special medial kits for training NGOs at the national level in media and project outreach work. All travel related expenses for the participants were covered by the project.

The two main components, in more detail, were:

I. Component one: LOG Framework approach, which assisted NGOs with project planning.

This session consisted of three parts:

1. Introduction to the Logical Framework approach
2. The LOG Frame Process (Analyses of the problem, objectives setting, indicators, planning phase)
3. LOG Frame Matrix for a REC project design



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II. Component two: Media session aimed at:

- preparing the selected NGOs to include media and communication components in their proposals;
- assist the NGO applicants with hands-on skills in mass-media communications and holding media events that they should employ during project implementation.

NGOs prepare proposals

NGOs with selected concept papers then prepared full proposals in October-November, 2005. Full Proposal guidelines were provided to the NGOs to assist in the preparation process. Additionally, the REC staff assigned in each country office also provided help, paying attention to equal treatment principles. REC staff regularly replied to requests for information and further explained the details of the application process.

Full Proposal selection

In December, 2005, and January, 2006, the full proposal selection process took place in all countries. The selection process was coordinated by the REC Country offices in each of the eligible countries and the evaluation committee made the proposal review and selection. The evaluation committees were composed of: A REC CO office representative, a DEF representative in the country, an ICPDR representative in the country, and the usual LAB members. Grants review and evaluation was done based on the following selection criteria, which were distributed to the NGOs together with the grants forms and documents:

Environmental impact

- Direct or indirect actions which promise pollution (nutrients and/or toxic) reduction are clearly explained.
- SMART² indicators are set and the way to verify them is defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used to achieve the goal and objectives.

Cooperation

- The commitment of stakeholders to the project is proven and their role clearly defined.

Proposal quality

- The action plan is clear, feasible and realistic.
- The budget is cost-effective.

Staff capability

- NGO staff and other experts involved have experience and competence related to the addressed issue.

The REC applied strict evaluation rules, following the REC Granting principles honed during the last 15 years of experience in the region. They include:

- Transparent granting process and awarding procedures.
- Service oriented attitude towards the NGOs.
- Fair decision-making on published grants evaluation criteria, with use of independent experts.

The REC's Grants Manual was followed by each of the Country offices during the grants selection process to ensure the quality of the process.

² Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results Oriented, and Time-bound

Winners Meetings in 11 Danube Countries

During January and February, 2005, the REC Country offices in the Danube Basin countries, and REC Moldova, organised Winners Meetings in their countries. 57 CEE NGOs took part and received instructions on project management and reporting.

In each case, grant winners were invited to the country office for the meeting. The project leader presented their project to the other grantees. The aim was to see potential synergies among the projects and new ways to disseminate information and best practices. Discussions on the terms of the Award Agreements were conducted, covering such things as: The schedule for providing progress and financial reports, and the schedule for providing the NGO with funding, based upon their progress in implementing the project.

When signed by both the grantee and the Country Office Director, an Award Agreement becomes a legally binding contract. Award Agreements state the approved budgets for each grant, the disbursement schedules, the reporting requirements, and any other conditions. Two original copies of the Award Agreement were sent to the NGO project officer who signed and returned both of them to the Country Office. When the signed copies of the Award Agreement was received, the Country Director accepted and signed them, placing one in the grant file and returning the other to the NGO project officer.

The Award Agreement also states that the grantee is obligated to undertake the project as described in the grant application. Any material changes to the project proposal must be submitted in writing in advance to the Grants Manager and must be approved in writing by the Grants manager. Material changes include a budget variance of 10% or more, a change in the dates of project implementation, and significant changes to the nature of the project.

Funds were transferred to the NGO accounts directly from the RE COs, therefore detailed information about the NGO back accounts was attached to the Award Agreements.

National Grants implementation progress in the 10 Danube Grants countries

Individual reports prepared by each of the REC offices coordinating and monitoring the NGO work implementing the national grants are attached to this report. These reports indicate the progress of implementation individually for each grant.

Following the REC Grants Monitoring rules, as stated in the grants manual, each of the REC Countries involved in the programme followed the grants monitoring process for each of the granted projects. The Grants managers were very closely following the progress of each of the grants and visited the projects site at least once during implementation. The monitoring trip reports highlight the successes, as well as the problematic areas, of the projects.

Generally speaking, project implementation went smoothly and the majority of the grants were successfully closed upon completion. Nevertheless, there were some problems faced during the project, particularly with NGOs not completing the granting reporting procedures, which lead to abnormal close outs of their grants. Such cases are detailed in the Country reports (e.g. Croatia).



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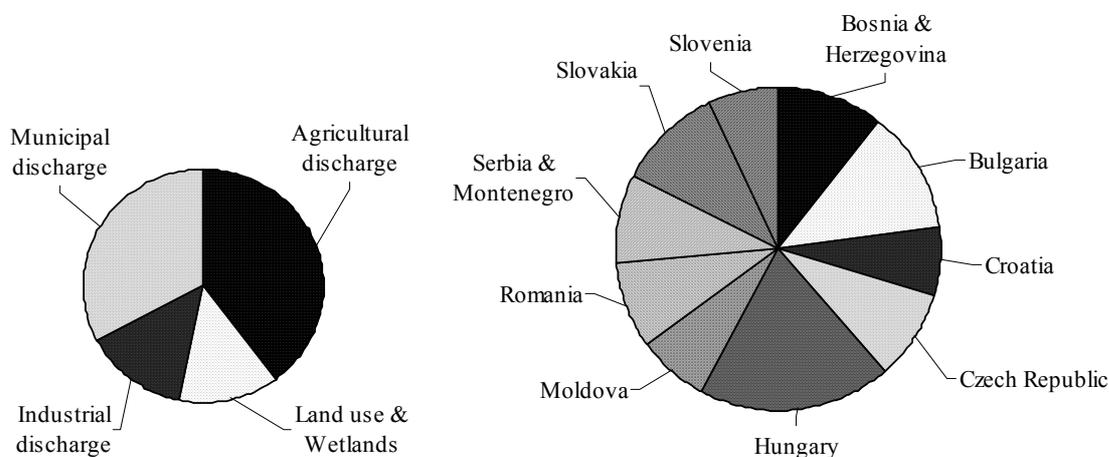


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Analyses of the impact of the DRP national Grants

Summary of all the country projects according to their main environmental topic

Country	Agricultural discharge	Industrial discharge	Land use/Wetlands	Municipal discharge	Totals
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2	2	1	1	6
Bulgaria	3	1	3	0	7
Croatia	1	1	1	1	4
Czech Republic	3	2	0	0	5
Hungary	3	1	2	5	11
Moldova	1	0	0	3	4
Romania	5	0	0	0	5
Serbia & Montenegro	2	1	0	2	5
Slovakia	0	0	1	5	6
Slovenia	3	0	0	1	4
Totals	23	8	8	18	57
Percentage (%)	40.4	14.0	14.0	31.6	100.0



Share of projects for each environmental topic

Share of projects for each country

It is clear from the table above that there was a strong focus on addressing the problems of pollution originating from land use (protection of wetlands was not highly represented in this round) and from agricultural discharges, and a focus on working with municipalities. Municipalities (both rural and urban areas) were the most common stakeholders in all the projects and outnumbered all the others. Farmers and municipalities are typically easier to approach and more keen to cooperate than, for instance, industrial companies or higher-level authorities. However, the problem of industrial discharge was also well addressed by the NGOs. The portfolio of projects represents well the priorities of the grant call, and the proposed approaches were promising from the perspective of the grant call goals and objectives. In each country, NGOs are focusing on the issues that they perceive to be the

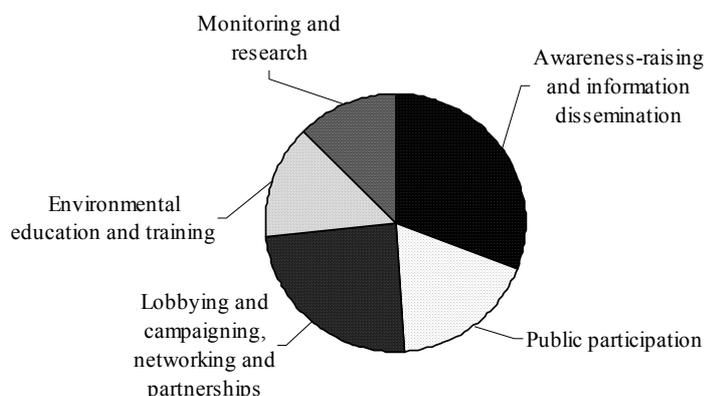
most in need of action and where they see the biggest obstacles for the sustainable development of the Danube region. Agriculture is one of the most problematic areas in terms of pollution generation and NGOs are increasingly focusing on working with farmers and local communities. NGOs are also developing ways to work with industry and municipalities.

The table below illustrates what parts of the scope have been addressed by the projects and by which countries. The categorization has been made according to the countries' main environmental topic and scope.

Environmental topic	Frequency
Agricultural discharge	
Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development (i.e. best agricultural practices)	15
Address rural waste management (i.e. the reduction of the use pesticides)	8
Industrial discharge	
Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems	3
Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances (i.e. phosphate detergents)	5
Land use & Wetlands	
Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects	2
Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat	6
Municipal discharge	
Address household waste management (i.e. the reduction of the use of conventional detergents)	15
Address urban waste-water collection and treatment	3

As can be seen from this table, the emphasis is mainly on promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development (agricultural discharges) and towards addressing household waste management (municipal discharges). Both parts of the discharge-scopes are important contributors towards the reduction of nutrient and toxic pollution.

Tools used	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Awareness-raising and information dissemination	47	30.7
Public participation	28	18.3
Lobbying and campaigning, networking and partnerships	37	24.2
Environmental education and training	22	14.4
Monitoring and research	19	12.4





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The NGO projects apply a variety of tools and approaches such as awareness raising, public participation, lobbying, campaigning, training and education, as well as monitoring and research. More than 30 percent of the national projects in the second round focused on awareness-raising and information dissemination as the main way to reach their targets. By using media (i.e. for press releases or radio and TV broadcasts) a greater number of people were reached. Media was used as an important tool in reaching key stakeholders as well as informing the general public.

With regards to the effects of the projects on nutrient and toxic pollution reduction in the Danube basin, we can say that the majority of national projects had an indirect effect. This is not surprising since one of the particular strengths of NGO's is to raise public awareness on different issues. Based on our assessment, the types of activities that resulted in direct effects are listed below. The environmental benefit of the actions are also specified.

Impact of the DRP National grants in each of the Countries

Summaries of the impacts the grants have had in each of the countries of the Danube River Basin follow.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The DRP National Grants Program (second round) has provided financial support to six local NGO projects in order to reinforce their participation, and the participation of other stakeholders, in water management and pollution reduction. BiH NGOs were faced with the specific issue of nutrient reduction; based on their experience in this area, NGOs had the possibility to work together with other relevant institutions/sectors preparing and implementing project proposals. All of the awarded projects were very complex, so the NGOs involved expert partners in preparing full project proposals. NGO NERDA involved NGO EkoPot for an agricultural training session and radio Kameleon for media coverage and public relations. They also involved agricultural engineers for full proposal preparation, especially for developing agricultural training curricula. NGO Eco-Logic involved the Institute for Forestry and forestry engineers.

Some of the NGO activities combined indirect and direct nutrient reduction activities, but the overall focus was on creating public awareness on various issues, thus indirectly reducing nutrients. Overall, 28 environmental NGOs were involved (as leaders or partners), 25 representatives of various governmental bodies (ministries, municipalities, city administration, institutes, etc.), and 41 print and electronic media outlets covered DRP small grants implementation.

A range of NGO activities did lead to direct nutrient reduction. These activities range from the removal of illegal dumps close to waterways (5 actions) to the practical education in the field of farmers about the controlled utilization of natural (organic) fertilizers. Agricultural producers were also educated on the necessity to reduce chemical products and properly dispose of containers. (7 trainings held on this issue). While there are no statistical measures to verify this, another project directly reduced the amount of nutrients from the food and beverage industry from the Vrbas and Drina River basins, and the Sava River basin. Two targeted sites were also reforested: Two ha were planted with black pine in Banja Luka (F.U. "Crni vrh" section 75), and one ha was planted in Jajce (F.U. "Sedinac" section 72).

Women and youth in the upper Drina region were informed and educated on pollution and its sources. Strong media campaigns on water protection and public participation (41 various media were covering NGO's projects implementation) were fostered through the project.

The reduction of diffuse pollution was also supported through the promotion of ecological production (i.e. biological products instead of chemical ones), and promotion of their proper use. Various projects focused on:

- The promotion and application of cleaner production measures;
- The organisation of trainings and round tables for target groups;
- The development of promotional materials, brochures and collaboration with media;
- Increasing public participation, linking stakeholders in all sectors;
- Engaging local communities in the process of decision making, notably concerning pollution in the Ukrina river, caused by the Sanari Lignite Mine;
- Promoting the importance of forestation for local populations, but also for different governmental and non governmental institutions; and
- Developing cooperation with all interested stakeholders.

Awarded projects and NGOs experience (gained through implementation) could serve as a platform for other similar programs for the reduction of river contaminants (from different pollutants). This grant program linked all environmental stakeholders groups around nutrient reduction issues.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Bulgaria

Taking into account the variety of negative factors the Danube River is facing, the awarded non-governmental organisations had the opportunity to choose where to stream their efforts to decrease nutrient and toxic pollution. One of the topics addressed by the grantees was excessive pollution from agricultural fertilizers and manure. Meetings were held with farmers from the Danube region and materials were disseminated. 100 stakeholders participated in meetings for environmental agricultural practices and 1500 hard copies of best agricultural practices materials were distributed.

Floods have been one of the biggest problems in recent years with social, economic and environmental impacts; they were, therefore, the attention of some projects. Floods occur as a consequence of governmental decisions that led to deforestation and the destruction of natural floodplains. One of the projects worked on the restoration of wetlands in areas where lands were drained and turned into agricultural territories (Euromodel Association). The achievement of the implemented project is one wetland which will serve as a model, and an established public-private partnership for future cooperation and project preparation. As a result of European Environment Foundation project implementation, institutions responsible for flood monitoring, control and prevention were gathered and discussed their joint actions. The Space Research Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences made a presentation on the use of satellite technologies for flood prognosis and assessment and received additional funding from the national budget. The film festival in Dolna Banya will continue to present media products with environmental contexts in its next edition in 2007 (climate change). The Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) project can be considered as achievement as this organisation successfully cooperates with institutions at a high level, like the Danube River Basin Directorate, MoEW, and the Environment and Water Commission of the Parliament. BBF mapped the Osam River in relation to the degree of damage after the floods in 2005 and made assessments of the possibilities for river ecosystems improvement and the reduction of floods risk. The success story is that the institutions are working with BBF and are looking for their expert opinion and experience in the elaboration of plans, programs and measures at the regional and national levels.

Awareness-raising was used in all projects, but in different forms, including: Open lessons with school children and drawing competitions; seminars, round tables, and meetings with stakeholders; websites; and work with the media. The Bulgaria in Europe Association project achieved long-lasting effects using the awareness raising approach, establishing an informational and educational centre in the town of Vidin.



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Lobbying and campaigning, addressing transboundary pollution in the Timok river, was achieved by the Regional Initiative Association. Heavy metals pollution from the Serbian side, the lack of information on excessive concentrations, and public participation in decision-making were the topics addressed by the project.

The overall impacts of the grants are: Established public-private partnerships; better coordination between authorities for floods monitoring and prevention; restored wetlands; addressed transboundary pollution; the implementation of the Aarhus convention; a decrease in agricultural pollution; society informed and with raised awareness; and contributions made to water management plans, programs, and measures.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Hungary

Out of the eleven projects supported, two contributed to minimizing agricultural discharges by collecting data and raising awareness among farmers. One project developed a demonstration area on sustainable forest and water management in order to avoid floods and two others succeeded in rehabilitating a lake and a meadow respectively. Two reached their very ambitious goals of providing information about pollution in the Danube (Reflex and the Dráva River Alliance). Environmental awareness-raising was emphasized in all projects, especially the one which created a moving exhibition about the Danube, and the one which developed cleaning actions along the Ipoly River. The project of Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Egyesület was a success in the field of public participation. Above all, most of the actions of the eleven funded projects were reported by local media and sometimes by national media as well.

Short descriptions of the projects are available on the homepage of REC Country office Hungary (www.rec.hu).

Impacts of DRP national grants in Moldova

One pilot platform for the collection and composting the organic waste was created in Falesti district as part of the project. Organic waste, in particular animal waste, represents 30-40 % of the waste generated in the Falesti district. The implementation team decided to build a pilot platform for few villages; the organic fractions are collected separately from other waste and the composted organic waste is used to improve the soil quality and enrich it with organic fertilizers. Preliminary instruction was also organised for the local population. This activity will help to reduce the impact of water and soil pollution with nutrients. The implementation team is thinking to extend this practice to other villages in the district.

20 farmers from the Falesti district that were involved in the project decided not to use chemical fertilisers, which means that more than 1500 ha will be treated only with organic fertilisers. Taking into consideration that the main pollution of the Prut River in this region is coming from agricultural discharge, it is clear that this is a great achievement for the project.

A partial upgrade of the second stage of water treatment plant in Ungheni was also planned. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, it was not possible to renovate completely the second stage of water treatment at the Water Treatment Plant. However, even with the work done a great achievement in water treatment was realised:

- 70 % increase in the level of water purification

- 20 % decrease in the concentration of ammonium
- 30 % decrease in the concentration of organic substances

Hotspots were mapped in three municipalities (Cahul, Cantemir, Cimislia), and polluters identified and fined. Moreover, two maps with the schemes for collecting water and soil samples were developed, as were two maps with the levels of nutrient and pesticide pollution in the Southern region.

Two projects were implemented with the major aims of “Promoting public participation in water protection, and raising public information and awareness on water protection issues”. The concrete results of these projects will be available only in few years, but deep cooperation with the implementation teams within the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education, public TV Company “TeleRadio Moldova”, and local public Administrations could be considered a big achievement.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Croatia

All NGOs expressed relative satisfaction related to the process of project implementation and progress, although a few expected and unexpected obstacles appeared in almost all cases of project implementation for several reasons, including a pig-plague epidemic in Eastern Slavonia, a relatively low level of seasonal agricultural production, and the low level of satisfaction among local people with the political state in the Counties in which projects were implemented. All project implementers expressed a high level of interest and motivation among local people to implement environmentally sound methods and knowledge, and to anticipate implementation of the sustainable development principles within their local circumstances.

The results of the projects were numerous, and included: a relative reduction of nutrients and toxic pollution discharged by promoting organic agriculture and changes in people’s behaviours and attitudes; raising the knowledge of space and resources users; and strengthening local communities and increasing public involvement and participation in environmental decision making. Still, relatively weak inputs and the involvement of particular local communities and their political leaders and decision makers in the region can be used as an excuse for the weak prioritization of environmental and sustainable development issues, since Danube region in Croatia is economically relatively poor and has lots of financial and organizational problems. Effort still has to be invested in order to reach a full understanding and social consensus around the complete fulfillment of DRP objectives.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Serbia

Taking into account the direct impacts of nutrient reduction in the agriculture sector, the most important and concrete impacts of the project were the increase of organic agriculture in at least two municipalities (Subotica and Becej); and the creation of a database registry of 81 agricultural producers interested in organic production from Belo Blato, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Becej and Novi Sad. Based on this, it is possible to expect a reduction in the amount of pollutants in soil and water.

In terms of the promotion of best available technology, the main achievement was raising awareness among the wider public and the industrial sector of problems with water pollution from the Hydro System Nadel (HSN). Establishing communications with the competent authorities for the HSN management - including industry, Public enterprise “Tamis-Dunav”, NGOs CEBI and DTI, Primary school “Branko Radicevic” - as well as the preparation, printing and dissemination of a publication (“Guide for the reduction of nutrient pollution reduction with active public participation” resulted in joint activities toward pollution reduction. It is important to note that sector of industry includes NGOs and the public in decision making process, in order to establish cooperation in reduction of the pollution with nutrient and toxic pollution matters.



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Another project that addressed the alternative treatment methods and practices that lead to the efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances from the environment can serve as a good example for follow up activities. Some of the activities, such as the promotion of the best available techniques for storing used oil, campaign led by school children, review of legal documents related to problem with used oil, resulted in communication strategy development, GPS identification of 30 location of generators used oil, as well 30 questionnaires analyzed and compiled into GIS. Ministry of science and environment of Serbia recognized this problem as priority and in the mean time prepared and co-finance project with «Ekorec» from Popovac which is addressed on legislation development in this topic. It is possible to say that by this project and activities of this NGO such reaction and interest was initiated.

National project which has been addressed on household waste management, took into account reduction of the use of conventional detergents. Citizens and local authorities were informed about consequences of phosphate presence in the water ecosystems through media, campaigns, leaflets dissemination, but most important result was started initiative for introducing law regulation. City of Nis is second town in Serbia by size, and it was very important to establish cooperation among different stakeholders, first of all among citizens and local authorities, in order to protect local environment, especially improvement of the river Nisava quality. In a few meeting between NGO representatives and main officials from the City Hall, these activities were recognized as very important public participation in decision making process and cooperation in joint activities toward pollution reduction was announced.

Project that was addressed on urban waste-water collection and treatment was carried out total implementation of Cacak municipality LEAP document, as its first task, but not the least establishing conditions for reduction of waste waters pollution from rural area. Great solution for problem of waste water treatment in rural area Municipality Cacak recognized as one of the priorities, which resulted in joint activities between Cacak Municipality, Department for environmental protection and NGO (financial co-financing and expert enrolment). Very concrete results were installations of two waste water treatment tanks, with complete documentations, licences and permits, which use microbiological method for waste water treatment (aerobic bacterial cultures). Good cooperation established with Public Health Institute of Cacak Municipality, which is responsible for monitoring of lagoons' functioning, and good cooperation with media, which covered all phases of this huge project.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Slovakia

During project implementation, great emphasis was placed on cooperation with various groups, including local governments, citizens, and especially with youth. Five out of six projects supported focused on environmental education.

NGOs closely collaborated with the public and representatives of self-governments in two projects which aimed at schoolchildren (project Waters of Kysuce and project Streams are not drains II). A variety of promotional materials – leaflets, publications, brochures and so on – were created for different stakeholders during project implementation. School children participated in revitalisation activities in two projects: Waters of Kysuce and Revitalization of Cilizsky potok catchments such as common design of the Danube river coalition partners. One NGO (Friends of the Earth stressed lobbying, targeting Brussels and the European Parliament. Perhaps the greatest success was within the project run by Friends of the Earth Slovakia, which halted the plan for the construction of a hazardous waste incineration plant in the town of Sala.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Romania

The second round of DRP national grants increased knowledge and awareness among the communities and stakeholders in water pollution and water management issues. Even small projects with limited areas of implementation had strong impacts in local communities where the messages were promoted effectively and so reached the targeted audience. In terms of geographic location, it is worth emphasizing that the selected projects covered various locations and sub-basins, from the Lower Olt sub-basin to the Prut in Central Moldova. Whereas one project demonstrated NGO capacity to directly address nutrient control priorities (through building individual manure platform), all five projects adopted a capacity building focus pertaining to agricultural practices that are benefiting the environment and the market-value of agricultural products. Capacity building activities aimed mainly at rural communities, including local councilors, landowners and farmers. 12 events (workshops, public meetings, training courses) were organized, involving more than 500 participants, as were three local awareness-rising campaigns and two collaborative Action Plans for agricultural pollution control.

New messages were developed and tested in the specific local social-cultural contexts in the form of printed materials and, in one project, radio was extensively used as a channel to disseminate information and respective key messages.

Impacts of DRP national grants in Slovenia

Due to the limited financial resources for environmental NGOs in Slovenia, the DRP grants provided a rare opportunity for small NGOs in Slovenia to get co-financing for their projects. The demand from NGOs was much higher than the funds available; altogether, 80.000 USD was request while only 40.000 USD could be awarded.

The cooperative approach used by the REC vis-à-vis NGOs within tender procedures, full support in project proposal preparation, additional trainings and readiness to help during the implementation period, was valued as a very positive experience by NGOs. On the other hand, it was evident that NGOs have quality personnel and a high level of knowledge in the field of environmental protection, so they are able to address technical problems related to nutrient and toxic reduction and to introduce new approaches.

One of the important achievements of the Danube grants programme in Slovenia was the relatively high number of local inhabitants and land owners directly involved in project implementation (250 farmers participated the seminars on eco farming, and 60 joined the field activities on the appropriate cutting of swamp meadows, plucking of alder trees and cleaning of riverbanks). The project managed to transfer the message of why it is important to use appropriate farming methods in order to reduce nutrient pollution and to preserve rich biodiversity in the protected area as they took over the initiative to continue with similar activities by them selves in the future and with that actively contribute to biodiversity preservation in the preserved area. The project also managed to link different stakeholders who did no work together successfully in the past.

Another important achievement was that one of the NGOs managed to apply a new, technically supported, method for reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the rural area of Podravje: the use of Ecoremediations (ERM). ERM is a way of protecting and restoring devastated environments by using natural ecosystems. In cooperation with top specialists in this field, the NGO prepared three booklets and several workshops for farmers (250 farmers and land owners were directly involved in educational activities). The NGO approached the potential users (farmers) directly, showing why and how they could use the ecoremediation with relatively low investment and thus contribute to water pollution reduction.

Another important achievement was made by an NGO that influenced consumers – particularly young families and youth – to change their behaviour using target promotions. They developed a media campaign, produced 10.000 leaflets showing all the advantages of phosphate-free detergents, used the internet and existing infrastructure (health centers), as well as traditional events (Day of health, Day of



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Environment,) in order to promote alternative washing means. The research done at the beginning and at the end of the project showed that 57% of the population is using phosphate-free detergents after having gained knowledge on its advantages (450 participated in each round).

The addition of the media training, which contributed a lot to better promotion of the Danube Regional Project as a whole as well as of particular projects, was well-received.

REGIONAL GRANTS

The Regional Grants selection and monitoring process followed the REC Grants Manual. The REC's reputation on NGO financing depends very much on a coherent and transparent approach to supporting NGOs; the REC has to demonstrate that its decision-making on financial allocations of resources to NGOs are accountable and fair. The granting procedures and guidelines developed for this programme are based on the following principles:

- Open calls/ announcements for proposals.
- Tailored but consistent granting processes across the organisation.
- Transparent granting process and awarding procedures.
- Service oriented attitude towards the NGOs.
- Fair decision-making on published grants evaluation criteria, with use of independent experts.
- Publicly announcing the grant award results.
- Building of NGO project management capacity through granting.
- Financial accountability of REC and NGOs, towards one another and the donor.
- Professional monitoring of NGOs project implementation.
- Assuring the quality of NGOs project results.

The REC's granting team at the Head Office and country offices are responsible for ensuring that all grants fulfils these principles and that conformity to REC's granting procedures are adhered to across the organisation.

Grants announcement and selection

The regional grants were announced in July, 2005. The regional grants announcement is enclosed in this report as an attachment (Appendix XXII).

The selection of concept ideas took place in September, 2005. The process was slightly different than the first round; independent experts were involved from this early stage on, rather than only at the second (full proposal) stage. DEF and ICPDR representatives were also involved at both selection stages in the second round of grants (concept papers and full proposals).

NGOs with selected concept papers were invited to a training on LOG-framework and working with the media in Szentendre on September 30th, 2005. Training was organised by the REC at the regional level to assist the short selected NGOs during the concept-paper stage in preparing full proposals. In total, 16 NGO members from NGOs who submitted the 9 best CPs took part in the training. The aim was to improve their capacities to develop solid and comprehensive proposals by discussing their project ideas; enhance their capacities and provide them with an in-depth understanding of the donor's priorities. Special attention was paid to working with media and project outreach. The media part of the training was prepared jointly by a REC expert (Pavel Antonov) and a DRP expert (Paul Csagoly), who also lead the media training personally.

The two components of the training in more detail were:

I. Component one: the LOG framework approach, to assist NGOs with project planning, consisting of three parts:

- Introduction to the logical framework approach;
- The LOG frame process (analyses of the problem, objectives setting, indicators, planning phase); and
- LOG frame matrix for a REC project design.

II. Component two: media session with the aim of:

- Preparing the selected NGOs to include media and communication components in their proposals; and
- Assist the NGO applicants with hands-on skills in mass-media communications and holding media events that they should employ during project implementation.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for project management to hold individual sessions with the authors of each of the CPs to discuss their proposals in the light of the comments from the evaluation committee, explain proposed changes to the project as suggested by the evaluation panel including independent experts, and make sure that the applicants are clear with the selection criteria and requirements on the projects to be awarded.

The NGOs whose concept papers were approved in stage 1 were eligible for a project preparation start-up grant. The purpose of the grant is to help partners meet and work together on a full proposal. The amounts awarded did not exceed USD 1,500, and were approved during the evaluation of the concept papers.

The Full Proposal Evaluation Meeting took place on December 2nd, 2005, in Szentendre. An independent expert panel evaluated all proposals. The expert panel consisted of: Robert Atkinson (absent from meeting) from REC, Jasmine Bachman (absent from meeting) from ICPDR, Paul Csagoly from the DRP programme team in Vienna, Richard Filcak and Todd Schenk from the REC, Jaroslav Ungerman and David Varnagy from DEF, and Alexander Zinke as an independent expert.

The proposals were first pre-screened by REC staff for completeness. The expert panel reviewed the proposals and scored them based on the following standard criteria:

Environmental impact

- Measurable results lead directly or indirectly to nutrient pollution reduction.
- Process and stress reduction indicators are clearly defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used.
- Trans-boundary perspective/watershed approaches are applied.

Cooperation

- Feasible regional/cross-border cooperation is demonstrated.
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation is involved.

Proposal quality

- There is a reasonable and realistic action plan.
- The budget is cost effective.

Staff capability

- Staff experience and competence on the issue exists in all NGOs involved.

The respective REC country offices (and REC Moldova) contributed to the evaluation with their comments on the issues relevant to their particular countries, the methods employed by the NGOs, staff capacity and validation of information provided by the applicants. Nine proposals were submitted. As a result of the evaluation process, five projects were chosen to be awarded a total of 177,827 USD and 4 others were rejected.



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The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report (Appendix XXIV – Regional Grants Evaluation Minutes).

The evaluation process was concluded in January 2006 and the list of the regional Grants winners is following:

Danube Regional Project, Round II, Regional Grants

Project number: 21719		
Project title: "Barriers and Bridges": Barriers to Waste, Nutrients and Chemicals Bridges for Communities, Sectors and Information		
Project leader: Laszlo Stoll		
Leading NGO: HOLOCEN Nature Protection Association Kossuth u. 13 3525 Miskolc Hungary Tel: +3646508944 Fax: +3646352010 Email: holocen@holocen.hu, stoll@holocen.hu	First Partner: SILVANUS Ecological Association 407515 Sancraiu, jud. Cluj Sancraiu 331-332 Tel: +40264257662 Fax: +40264257588 E-mail: parpi2001@yahoo.com, silvoko@yahoo.com	Second Partner: Dialogue for the Communities Public Welfare Association 3530 Miskolc Malomszog u. 2 Tel: +36302529121 E-mail: ari@freemail.hu

Project number: 21722		
Project title: Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin		
Project leader: Irma Popovic		
Leading NGO: Green Action Frankopanska 1, p. p. 952 10000 Zagreb Croatia Tel: +38514813096 Fax: +38514813096 Email: za@zelena-akcija.hr	First Partner: Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development CESD 71000 Sarajevo S. Tomica 1 Tel: +38733207949 Fax: +38733207949 E-mail: coorsa@bih.net.ba	Second Partner: DPPVN - Society of Bird Research and Nature Protection 2327 Race Ptujaska c. 91 Tel: +38641699268 Fax: +386027883051 E-mail: milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si
Third Partner: Danube Environmental Forum Serbia and Montenegro 11000 Belgrade Andricev venac 2 Tel: +381113231374 Fax: +381113231374 E-mail: defyu@eunet.yu		

Project number: 21724		
Project title: Cross-sectoral cooperation for good water quality management on lower Danube farms		
Project leader: Yuliya Grigorova		
Leading NGO: Association for Integrated Rural	First Partner: Romanian Ornithological Society	

Development str. Hristo Belchev 21, 6th floor, office 80 1000 Sofia Bulgaria Tel: 35929809837 Fax: 35929809837 Email: julia_aicc@yahoo.co.uk	400336 Cluj str. Gh. Dima 49/2 Tel: +40213184701 Fax: +40213184701 E-mail: office@sor.ro	
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Project number: 21727		
Project title: Preserving the water by promoting diapers friendly for earth and baby		
Project leader: Spelca Morojna		
Leading NGO: Association Storky Leona Zalaznika ulica 4 2000 Maribor, Kosaki Slovenia Tel: +386(0)22512411 Email: info@storklja.si	First Partner: RODA - Parents in action 10000 Zagreb Savska cesta 80 Tel: +38516177500 Fax: E-mail: roda@roda.hr	

Project number: 21728		
Project title: Best agricultural practice in my farm		
Project leader: Emma Gileva		
Leading NGO: Black Sea NGO Network str. Sheinovo 12 9000 Varna Bulgaria Tel: 35952615856 Fax: 35952602047 Email: reg_off@bseanetwork.org	First Partner: Prietenii Pamantului (Earth Friends) 800025 Galati str. Portului bl. Siret 4, sc. 7 ap. 109 Tel: +40236462564 E-mail: earthfriends@rdslink.ro	Second Partner: Eco Counselling Center Cahul Cahul str. Stefan cel Mare 21/28 Tel: +37329921478 E-mail: arturneb@hotmail.com

For regional grants, in the second round, 177,830 USD was awarded to NGOs throughout the Danube watershed. The maximum that was to be allocated to an individual project was 50,000 USD.

Regional Winners meeting in Hungary

The Regional Winners Meeting was held in Budapest, Hungary, on January 13th, 2006, with the participation of the five NGO leaders of the Regional Grants selected. The main goal of the meeting was to review and sign the award agreements between the NGOs and the REC, as well as to provide explanations on the REC Grants Requirements and Reporting Forms to NGOs. Any clarification about the projects, including the way the pre-conditions were addressed, was discussed during the meeting. In addition to this, the meeting provided an opportunity for the NGOs to present their projects and meet all organizations that were awarded a grant under this call. The NGOs met the Grants Manager assigned to their projects, which is important as he or she is their main contact person at the REC during project implementation. The NGOs were asked to present their projects in the winners meeting. The time scheduled for each project was about 30 min. Each presentation was 15 minutes, and an additional 15 minutes was allocated for questions and clarifications.

Following the REC's standard procedures, NGOs signed their Award Agreements - which serve as legal contracts stating the disbursement of funds, the reporting schedule and other terms and conditions - at the Winners Meeting. In this particular case, due to the delay in several cases, the Award Agreements were discussed but not signed with all NGOs during this meeting. The REC signed

the remaining Award Agreements within days, after all details of the agreements were agreed by both sides and all suggestions and comments from the evaluation committee were addressed in the full project proposals. Prior to transferring the first instalment, the Lead NGOs had to send the sub-award agreements to their partner NGOs for signatures. The first instalment was transferred to each of the organizations involved only after the Lead NGO and the REC signed their Award Agreements, and the Sub-award Agreements signed and stamped by the Lead and Partner NGOs were provided to the REC.

Regional Grants implementation progress

NGOs started working on the implementation of Regional Grants immediately after the Award Agreements were signed in January, 2006. The REC maintained regular communication with the involved NGOs in order to effectively monitor and support their projects.

The grants monitoring process consist of:

- *Direct contacts:* Direct contacts were initiated at the Winners Meeting and they were kept throughout project implementation. The REC requires the grantee to inform them, in advance, about any event organized within the framework of the Grant so a REC representative can attend. Any important direct communication with the grantees is filed in the project files which are kept at the REC.
- *Reporting review process,* took place twice during the grant implementation during the progress and final stages and consisted of:
 - Assessing the activities according to the plan (project proposal)
 - Checking to what extend the projects have achieved the results set by phase and overall
 - Checking the products and their quality
 - Checking if any changes occurred during project implementation, and how this change is reflected in the project.

As an outcome of the reporting review the reports were all well prepared and followed the REC reporting standards. NGOs fulfilled the additional requirements and accommodated the REC comments and requirements when needed.

- *Site visits:* The REC visited the NGOs in action at least once during project implementation. The meetings generally took place in the NGO office space and, in some cases, in the project event site. Every site visit required preparation from the NGOs on the project file, papers, documentation, financial issues, and so on. Each site visit is documented with a “Trip Report”, which identifies the positive and negative issues of project implementation and points out the changes and recommendations for future actions agreed upon between the REC and the NGOs. The trip reports of the Regional grants monitoring visits are annexed to this report.

Analyses of the regional grants impact

The main environmental topics of the five selected and awarded regional projects are related to agricultural discharge and municipal discharge. Subtopics include promoting organic farming, promoting ecological products and informing households about the possibilities of waste reduction. Facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation is an important element towards the implementation of all projects. Due to the backgrounds and expertise of the NGOs involved, the most important tools used

were awareness-raising, developing and disseminating information and lobbying, networking and campaigning.

The five regional projects are shortly described below. More in-dept information about project results can be found on the Project fact sheets annexed to this report.

Project A / “Barriers and Bridges” – barriers to waste, nutrient and chemicals; bridges for communities, sectors, information

This project encouraged cooperation between local institutions, civil organizations, authorities and municipalities alongside the river Hernad in Hungary and the river Sebes-Koros in Romania. The most common tools used were awareness-raising and the development and dissemination of information materials in the region. Furthermore, practical lessons were organized, as well as trainings and meetings. Schoolchildren, for instance, constitute an important stakeholder; they are involved in various activities with a high educational character. To exploit this educational focus the NGOs contacted a special educational institution with ample experience in this field of expertise. Together they were able to involve schoolchildren in field trips examining water quality and cross-border presentations.

The environmental impacts are primarily indirect and long term. Some of the projects more direct contributions towards improving water quality were the clearing of waste dumps and establishing partnerships between NGOs and stakeholders concerned with water management.

Project B / “Strengthening NGO participation in EU/WFD implementation in the Sava River Basin”

The overall objective of this project was to influence government legislation through the intensive use of lobbying and networking. Most importantly, the project aimed to push national water policies forward towards the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

This was the only regional grant that contributed directly to the spreading of the principles of the *Aarhus Convention* by increasing public participation in management planning for the Sava River. Activities included the development and dissemination of specific information materials, organizing conferences, and - most importantly - establishing a special Sava River Basin Committee.

This project focused on indirect environmental impacts, contributing to policy work at the national and international levels. It increased the understanding of national contributions to trans-boundary environmental problems.

{ TC "10. 2 Project B: The Prut Basin wide approach for Nutrient Reduction and Cross-border Cooperation" \FC\1 "2" }

Project C / “Cross-sectoral cooperation for good water quality management on Lower Danube farms”

This project focused on long-term nutrient reduction by establishing two pilot-farms in Romania and Bulgaria, which serve as practical case studies to be used for convincing other stakeholders about the success of implementing the GAP. The overall project goal - the reduction of water pollution - is thus projected to be achieved in the longer term with the help of specific water-agriculture policies. In that case, the overall nutrient reducing effect is not just limited to those pilot farms as the effect can be multiplied on other farms and possibly other regions. In order to convince government officials, cross-border field visits were organized.

This project focuses on long term achievements towards nutrient reduction. The establishment of two pilot farms resulted in practical case studies for measuring the success of applying the GAP. Stakeholders - local farmers and government officials - can thus see the achievements of GAP with their own eyes.



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Project D / “Preserving the water by promoting diapers friendly for earth and baby”

This project took an innovative approach towards concretely reducing nutrient and toxic pollutant reduction. The NGOs involved have traditionally been involved in promoting the use of re-usable diapers. Recognising the increased use of washing detergents when promoting reusable diapers, they are now also focusing on promoting ecologically friendly washing agents. This project is very suitable as a model for other areas within the Danube Basin.

Project E / “Best agricultural practices on my farm”

This project promoted the application of *Good Agricultural Practices* (GAP) on farms in five regions in Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova. Focusing on sustainable, environmentally friendly solutions eventually will lead to the reduction of eutrophication from farming in ecologically sensitive areas of the Danube Basin.

The project also encouraged compliance with existing and emerging national legislations on agricultural pollution control policies in the three countries and to support these policies through the sharing of GAP and information on the EU *Water Framework Directive*.

Awareness-raising and providing information and training for interested farmers were the approaches most used. The project reached a considerable number (approximately 125-200) of farmers who will effectively contribute to the reduction of the environmental impacts from agriculture in the Danube River Basin. Furthermore, the involvement of other stakeholders - government officials and rural communities - with the help of more NGOs and media, promoted GAP to an even wider extent. The environmental effects can thus be considerable considering the increasing number of farmers dedicated to applying GAP on their land.

Methods of NGO work in the regional grants

Awareness-raising/information dissemination and lobbying/campaigning, networking and partnerships were the most used tools. Almost all the projects managed to raise awareness on nutrient and other pollutants through campaigning and education. They provided access to knowledge by creating databases and compiling studies on water related information and pollution prevention and measures.

Three projects directly supported nutrient reduction policies by implementing pollution reduction measures in their pilot sites. Direct actions such as the establishment of a multi-stakeholder forum or creation of a transboundary information network contributed to the DRP goals and objectives. Two of the agriculture projects promoted environmentally friendly farming methods and Best agriculture policies in the countries involved. The frequent use of media coverage shows that the media trainings conducted by the REC and DRP paid off, as there were an impressive number of press releases.

All the projects show that there is a successful interaction between NGOs and other stakeholders. This comes to light when, for instance, feedback is generated and processed or when local people are requested to fulfil questionnaires. Here are the most common stakeholders involved or targeted through the regional grants (indicated per project):

- **Local communities;** overall the prime target group for awareness-raising and information dissemination activities (A, B, C, D, E)

- **Schools;** the involvement of school children in educational and practical activities is very encouraging as this indirectly involves their parents and families as well (A)
- **Agricultural farms;** mainly by addressing nutrient reduction through the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (A, C, E)
- **NGOs;** leading and partner NGOs form the managerial framework of the project's activities (A, B, C, D, E)
- **Media;** important contributor to publishing the results (A, B, C, D, E)
- **Authorities;** stakeholders in all projects with officials from several levels of authority (A, B, C, D, E)
- **Companies;** represented only in a few projects and then to a small extent i.e. for educational activities (A)
- **Scientific institutions;** only involved in a few projects and then even to a small extent. (D, E)



Assessment of the regional grants impact { TC "9.1 Assessment of the area of impact and objectives" }

All of the projects should directly or indirectly have a concrete and measurable impact on reducing nutrients and toxic substances.

DRP grants scope	Methods used	NGO activity	DRP objective	Indirect effect	Direct effect
Impact on pollution ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive case projects; Focusing attention on pollution sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot farms Production and consumption patterns Clean up actions 	Creation of sustainable ecological conditions for land use and water management	Education on alternative agriculture, helping to reduce nutrients in the long run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of pollution from farms Waste reduction
Model ⁴ value and multiplier effect	Interactive case projects + involvement of other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot projects Development of common positions and proposals in river basin 	Capacity building and Awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of hot spots and solutions. Dissemination of information to authorities 	Multiplication of best agricultural practices; Awareness raising among the key stakeholders; Alternative (environmentally friendly) products promotion
Regional approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building regional coalitions of NGOs Cross-boundaries campaigns Education of key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in the Sava River Basin Cross-sectoral cooperation for good water quality management Schools involvement for learning about water pollution 	Strengthening public involvement in environmental decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise transboundary awareness, improve international cooperation Disseminate experiences Increased capacities of NGOs to participate in river management and policy formulations 	Better communication and involvement of NGOs in the river basin management (e.g., Sava River); Sharing lessons learned in transboundary projects

We conclude that the projects supported represent good examples of how to tackle pollution problems in the Danube basin by utilising the strengths, know-how, skills and experiences of different NGOs simultaneously. The activities promoted by the NGOs range from higher level policy involvement in River basin management (i.e., Sava River) to practical work with farmers, teaching them best

³ The concrete scope is: Have a concrete and measurable impact on reducing nutrients and toxic substances.

⁴ Serve as a model for the other areas in the Danube River Basin.

agricultural practices and approaches to minimize pollution from their agricultural practices (e.g., trans-boundary project promoting cross-sectoral cooperation for good water quality management on lower Danube farms between Romania and Bulgaria) and promoting alternative modes of production and consumption (e.g., by reducing the waste pollution in the Danube River by promoting reusable diapers and ecological detergents).

There was a good mix of actions that lead directly to nutrient and toxic pollutant reduction and others that have a more indirect effect. Grantees (in collaboration with the REC) developed sets of indicators for measuring the project, both quantitatively and qualitatively. All the five regional projects resulted in environmental impacts in terms of nutrient and toxic pollution reduction. However, there are some clear distinctions between direct and indirect environmental impacts, as well as between long term and short term results. All the projects sufficiently address the Danube Regional Programme's objectives.

Due to the additional training, the NGOs were able to use media to the greatest extent. Wide media coverage publishing the positive results proved to be a successful tool for spreading the project messages even further. Thousands of people, originating from different backgrounds, have been actively involved in reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS OF THE PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH SECOND ROUND OF DRP GRANTS.

The projects implemented within the DRP contributed to the reduction of nutrients and toxic pollution discharged by promoting a variety of changes in behaviour and attitude in various areas, from organic agriculture to resource use. These processes involved strengthening local communities, public involvement and participation in environmental decision making, and raising public awareness on the wise use of chemicals in agriculture and soil-use related activities.

The DRP grants programme was, from the start, well positioned within the framework of local needs and interests, as is strongly visible in growth of environmentally sound agriculture initiatives. Danube pollution problems gained significant public support throughout the region through the participation and cooperation of different stakeholders, including the food industry, manure producers, agricultural producers and farmers, and consumers; and as a result of serious and consistent public pressure. The issue was also spread among students and teachers, sensitive from the media standpoint and economically interesting.

The majority of the national projects focused either on agricultural or municipal discharge. The two most common topics were promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development (e.g. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)), and addressing household waste management (e.g. the reduction of the use of conventional detergents). National projects tended to focus on local communities, either in rural or urban areas, ranging from hamlets to cities. NGOs have the tendency to tackle environmental problems close to home; this reflects the bottom-up approach that was promoted through the DRP granting programme.

The involvement of, and cooperation with, a variety of stakeholders originating from different levels and backgrounds is also a highlight of the national grants. This contributed to the use of participatory approaches in addressing pollution problems in the basin. NGO activities were complimentary to the efforts of other stakeholders - government, local environment authorities, international environment programmes, and so on. Several partnerships were initiated among NGOs and industries, farmers, water management bodies, local authorities and scientific institutions through grants in which the NGOs played the catalytic role, facilitating multi-sectorial cooperation.

Public awareness of the need to preserve and conserve floodplains and wetlands was also heightened. Local communities in the Danube are expressing higher levels of concern and sensitivity towards the use and management of these natural assets as they have been acknowledged lately as both EU relevant and economically valuable. Also, significant levels of voluntarism occurring within projects; NGOs are gaining stronger public appreciation and a multi-stakeholder approach is starting to become a precondition to reaching best environmental and economic scenarios and solutions.

In their approaches, NGOs built on their expertise in lobbying, campaigning, working with the public and local and central authorities. They focused on developing best practices and pilot projects for demonstration and they provided alternative solutions to the current production and consumption patterns in the region. Increased attention was dedicated to working with the media; all involved NGOs built on the training they went through during the proposal preparation and the project team at the REC also focused during the grants monitoring on raising the visibility of the projects as well as on the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in the Danube basin.

The DRP grants programme reinforced the urgent need to take environmental concerns into account and follow more sustainable principles so that a healthy environment will remain for future generations. Significant improvements were made in terms of the fostering of numerous environmentally sound initiatives, and new modes of cooperation and participation.

Altogether all the projects resulted in positive results towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution. As the independent evaluation conducted in the end of 2006 noted (stated in the report prepared by A. Zinke), most NGOs could not list direct benefits of their projects (e.g. in terms of reduced nutrient pollution), but the effects of these projects are usually measurable only as an indirect effect over several years.

Concluding, this second round of the DRP regional grants can be considered as a significant contribution towards reducing nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube Basin. Additionally, NGO project management skills and capacities were improved through the granting process via training sessions which took place during the second round. NGOs were able to share experiences and know how throughout the granting process, which helped in enhancing their knowledge and know-how on nutrient and toxic pollution related issues.



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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REGIONAL
PROJECT

PROJECT SET-UP

The project staff is composed of members of the REC's NGO Support Programme staff, employed at the REC head office in Szentendre Hungary; members of the REC Country Office staff in the Danube Basin countries REC-CEE operates within; and representatives of REC Moldova.

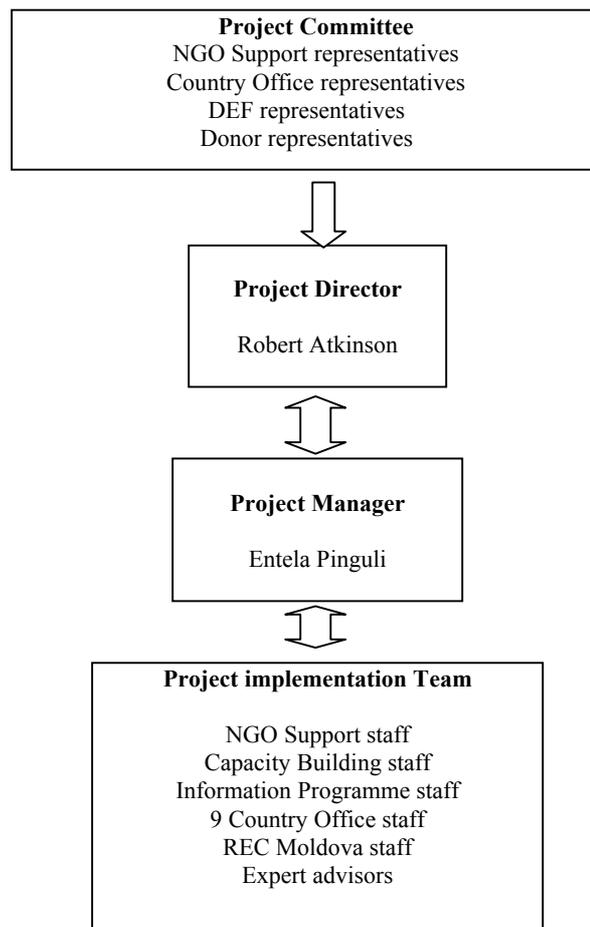
REC head office

Project director: Robert Atkinson, Director of Civil Initiatives

Activity manager: Entela Pinguli, Grants Manager, NGO Support Programme

Project management

The following chart shows how the work has been managed:





Danube Regional Project

National Grants - Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO National Environmental Projects

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), on behalf of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (DRP), hereby announces the second call for proposals to support non-governmental organisation (NGO) projects related to the reduction of Danube River basin nutrient and toxic chemicals pollution at the national level.

The total value of grants is **USD X (insert your country's amount from grants distribution table)**. Individual national grants range from USD 5,000 to USD 10,000, for a project period of 12 months. In exceptional cases (i.e. proposals that involve more than three NGOs, require some form of construction or involve extended networking), the amount can exceed this limit by 50 percent (i.e. up to a maximum USD 15,000).

Country	Second round of national grants Amount in USD
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50,000
Bulgaria	40,000
Croatia	50,000
Czech Republic	40,000
Hungary	50,000
Romania	50,000
Slovakia	50,000
Slovenia	40,000
Serbia and Montenegro	50,000
Moldova	40,000
Totals	USD 460,000

The deadline for submitting concept papers is September 2005. The NGOs of selected concept papers will then be assisted with training in **October 2005** to prepare full project proposals. The full proposals will be evaluated in **December 2005**. The awarded projects should be implemented by NGOs from January 2006 – January 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Danube Basin and its Environmental Problems

The Danube is Europe's second-longest river, extending 2,780 kilometres from its source in Germany to its delta at the Black Sea. The river forms a political boundary for 10 countries with vastly different political, economic and historical backgrounds. It is also a cultural and romantic symbol of central Europe's rich past and hopes for future integration.

The Danube's drainage basin is extremely large and diverse. It hosts very different ecosystems, including various wetlands of European importance (e.g. karst caves, alpine and steppe lakes, floodplain forests, the Danube delta). With more than 80 million people living in its vicinity, the Danube basin is the most international in the world. Countless tributaries drain into the Danube, including the Inn, the Morava, the Tisza, the Sava, and the Prut rivers.

Pollution remains a serious problem in the Danube region. The volume of nutrients — mainly from agricultural fertilizers and manure, and urban household sewage — entering the Danube basin waters is very high. Nutrient pollution is the contamination of surface and groundwater bodies by excessive inputs of nutrients. Although the natural input of nutrients is a prerequisite for the growth of organisms (i.e. the natural food chain), while river floodplains can cope with even large amounts of nutrients, pollution is typically caused by human activities and includes point sources such as municipal sewage treatment plants and industry emissions (e.g. foods), while non-point sources refer to the spraying of commercial fertilisers and animal waste on agricultural land, from where it infiltrates groundwater or drains with rain water into creeks, lakes and rivers. Hazardous substances often cause water pollution. The term “hazardous” means substances that have toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic or bio-accumulative effects, in particular those that decompose slowly or are persistent and have a significant adverse impact on living organisms. Heavy metals such as copper, iron, manganese, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, mercury, nickel, lead, etc., are toxic substances (mainly from the mining and metal industries), which tend to accumulate in the food chain and represent a big risk to aquatic and human life. Numerous other hazardous compounds that cause toxic and/or chronic pollution are of an organic nature and stem from the chemical, pharmaceutical and paper industries.

This pollution has placed local drinking water sources as well as the Black Sea in a serious condition. The situation is made worse by industrial incidents that spill or flush toxics directly into watercourses.

The August 2002 floods that raged through Central Europe and the Danube basin are evidence of other environmental problems. They were partly the result of past economic development decisions that led to deforestation and the destruction of natural floodplains in the Danube basin. Global warming also played a role. This degradation of the natural flood retention capacities also reduces the natural self-purification capacities for the uptake of nutrients e.g. in floodplains.

Preserving habitat for the rich and diverse natural species living in the basin is also a constant struggle. Some 80 percent of the Danube's wetlands and floodplains have been lost since the end of the 19th century, threatening the habitats of pelicans in the Danube delta, sturgeon in the lower Danube, beavers in the upper Danube, as well as the habitats of countless other species.

In 1998, the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) came into force after ratification by eight Danube states and the European Commission (EC). The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) was created to coordinate the implementation of the convention. Since its creation, the ICPDR has been effective in finding consensus among basin countries on priorities and strategies for improving the Danube and implementing the DRPC. Successes include the improvement of tools to manage the basin, such as the Accident Emergency Warning System, the Trans-National Monitoring Network for

water quality and the information system for the Danube (DANUBIS). In effect, the commission has done much to promote trans-boundary cooperation among numerous countries in a highly complex European region.

The objectives of the ICPDR's 2001-2005 Joint Action Programme for the Danube River Basin are directed towards:

- the improvement of the ecological and chemical status of the water;
- the prevention of accidental pollution events; and
- the minimisation of flood impacts.

In addition to these main objectives, the implementation of the Joint Action Programme will: improve the living standard of the Danube basin's population, enhance economic development in the region, contribute to the European Union accession process, restore the region's biodiversity and strengthen cooperation between the contracting parties. For further information about the Joint Action Programme's objectives and directives see <http://www.icpdr.org>.

The Danube Joint Survey published in May 2002¹, identified various chemical pollutants such as heavy metals, volatile organic hydrocarbons, polar pesticides and pharmaceuticals, which are directly affecting the chemical and biological status of the Danube River. The study on nutrients found different quantities of nitrogen and phosphorus in organic and inorganic forms along the Danube River, which indicated that the water quality in different parts of the river is contaminated. As a result, the middle Danube reach indicated eutrophication, which can cause the pollution of drinking water sources and decrease biodiversity in the long-term. Based on the level of the water contamination different hotspots were detected and prioritised.

The *Trans-boundary Analysis*, and other documents produced within the framework of the Danube Pollution Reduction Programme (1999, GEF/UNDP) are available on the ICPDR website¹ under “[GEF Assistance to the ICPDR](#)” and then “[Danube Pollution Reduction Programme 1997 to 1999](#)”. This site contains useful information about the sources of pollution and ways to address them in different parts of the Danube River basin. These publications, contain maps with information on the pollution hotspots, wetlands and other useful pollution data generated in different pollution sectors such as: municipalities, agriculture, industry and land-use and wetlands. Further information on the current UNDP/GEF DRP (2001-2006) is available at <http://www.undp-drp.org>.

The EU Water Framework Directive is now the basis for river basin management in Europe and thereby is the platform for implementing the DRPC. The ICPDR has been entrusted to coordinate WFD implementation at the DRB level including the development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

Danube Regional Project

The Danube Regional Project (DRP), with the official title "Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River Basin", was launched on December 1, 2001, as the next phase of GEF/UNDP's long-term commitment to achieving environmental health in the Danube River Basin. A key focus of the DRP is to strengthen the capacity of the ICPDR and Danube countries to fulfil their legally binding commitment to implement the Danube Protection Convention. Already well under way, the DRP is an umbrella for some 80 activities.

A recent success story was significant support from the DRP for developing the ‘Danube River Analysis 2004’, the first ever comprehensive analysis of the environment, and pressures impacting it, in the Danube Basin. The report was required by the EC to help assess how Danube countries will meet the WFD by 2015.

¹ <http://www.icpdr.org>

It also serves as a key step toward preparing the future 'Danube River Basin Management Plan'. (*see report at www.icpdr.org*)

To reduce nutrient and toxic pollution, the DRP works with a wide range of local, national and international stakeholders. For example, the DRP is helping national pollution control offices to assess which areas in the Danube basin are most at risk from floods washing hazardous substances into water bodies. The project works with farmers and farmer advisory services to improve techniques for applying fertilizers and pesticides. An activity will soon help Danube governments implement voluntary bans on phosphates used in washing detergents. And a pilot project will try to demonstrate the effectiveness of wetlands removing and retaining nutrients.

The Danube Grants Programme is part of DRP 'Objective 3' to strengthen public involvement in environmental decision-making and to reinforce community actions for pollution reduction and the protection of ecosystems. In this context, the Grants Programme is also seen as "applied" awareness raising.

To date, DRP "Objective 3" has supported the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF), a basin-wide network of NGOs. From 30 members in 2002, the DEF grew to 160 by mid-2005. The DEF's capacity to implement actions for controlling water pollution has been improved. Training materials about wetland rehabilitation and nutrient reduction have been developed in ten languages. In the future, DEF member involvement in developing policies will be supported through government partnerships (e.g. the Danube River Basin Management Plan within the framework of the EU's Water Framework Directive).

The DRP's Communications Strategy calls for strengthening NGO communications. DEF members, for example, have already received support in developing products such as their newsletter, website and publications. The strategy opens the door for NGOs to assist in implementing communications strategies targeted at key audiences, in part through awareness-raising campaigns at the community level (e.g. for wetland restoration and changing land-use patterns). And the DRP will actively bring 'the news' from NGO activities to the people of the Danube through the media.

The DRP will be carried out over five years with a total budget of USD 15 million. The bigger picture is that the DRP is part of the 95 million USD 'GEF Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction in the Danube/Black Sea Basin' – one of GEF's largest and perhaps most ambitious water-related projects in the world. The Partnership supports the goals of the Commissions for the Danube and Black Sea to reduce nutrient and toxic loads to the levels necessary to allow Black Sea ecosystems to recover to conditions in the 1960s.

NGO Contributions to Nutrient Reduction

NGOs and other stakeholders can contribute to the reduction of nutrients and toxics in the Danube River basin at both the national and regional levels. NGOs can undertake activities that lead directly to pollution reduction or facilitate the process of solving pollution problems. These projects could directly address the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution, and confront the trans-boundary or national problems present in the identified hotspots. The nutrient reduction projects of NGOs can also take indirect approaches, such as preventing pollution generation by improving and raising industry and public awareness; facilitating the flow of information; assisting in the prevention of accidental pollution, promoting the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and the sound use of organic fertilisers. These projects should also facilitate the development and functioning of democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in pollution-related issues and decisions.

They can represent community views in front of decision makers (serve as a bridge between officials and the general public), facilitate public participation in decision-making processes for Danube basin issues or suggest

alternative solutions for preventing or reducing pollution. Furthermore, NGOs can be a useful channel for the dissemination of information to the public, increasing their awareness of the problems and possible solutions. In order to fulfil their roles, NGOs concerned with the Danube basin need to strengthen their capacities. Awareness-raising can effectively contribute to expanding the common understanding of trans-boundary and even global environmental problems and respective solutions.

Based on the DRP grants experience with the first round of grants the overall majority of NGO activities supported by the grants component had an indirect effect on nutrient and toxic pollutant reduction in the Danube. This was expected since one of the strengths of NGOs is their ability to raise public awareness; change of behavior and attitude which is indirectly affecting pollution prevention. However, there were a variety of NGO activities at the national level which lead to direct nutrient reduction and the removal of toxins. These activities range from the removal of illegal dumps close to waterways to the reforestation of riverbanks to avoid erosion and improve water quality. Artificially constructed wetlands that can function as wastewater treatment areas were also planned, along with the management of hydrophytes and the management of nature reserves, improved water quality of ponds and the creation of new protected areas. The most typical pollution resource addressed by the most by the National Grants in the first DRP Grants round was agriculture, namely “Addressing flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects”. This is followed in popularity by “Promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development”. Pollution from agriculture is the most common target, followed by pollution from municipal discharge. “Addressing urban waste-water collection and treatment” was the NGO’s second favourite area of their work. The least popular part of the scope has been industrial discharges, within which the specific aim to, “Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities”.

During the first Grants round NGOs contributed to this process through direct actions as well as through collaboration with other stakeholders. A range of stakeholders have been targeted during the first grants round, including farmers, authorities, school children, enterprises, and designers. In general, the projects were able to reach a wide range of stakeholders, as expected. The biggest challenge for the involved NGOs and for the REC was to monitor and measure the extent to which the stakeholders are impacting the success of the project. This aspect of the work needs to be further improved and better tackled by the NGOs in the second grants round.

With respect to the tools used, considering the nature of the NGO work, during the first grants round some lobbying and awareness-raising is used extensively, whereas research and monitoring are less popular tools.

This DRP National Grants programme is a follow up of the first round and is expected to enable NGOs of the Danube basin region to increase public involvement in nutrient reduction through “practical” projects, education and training, monitoring and the influencing of policy at local and regional levels.

ELIGIBILITY

Registered NGOs in the Danube basin countries of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia and Montenegro with an environmental focus and an NGO bank account are eligible for national grants.

NGOs applying for national grants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- Commitment to cooperating with different stakeholders;
- Proven track record in project management;
- Experience with water, agriculture or nutrient issues (preferred); and
- Access to office equipment and facilities for effective communication.

LIMITATIONS

The REC's national grants **do not fund:**

- Projects in which the main result is scientific research, data collection and sampling;
- General operational expenditures, such as salaries or rent; or
- The purchase of land, buildings, investments, or vehicles not related to the project.

Technical limitations:

- Organisations which by the time of the announcement are still running a current DRP Grant at the National level.
- If an organisation is involved in two concept papers, the NGO must appoint different project coordinators for each project proposal.
- At the full proposal stage only one grant can be awarded to one NGO.
- Projects lasting for more than 12 months.
- Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) National Focal Point will be excluded from the decision-making process if their NGO is submitting a grant application.

PROJECT SCOPE

The main point of the national grants is to facilitate multi-stakeholder cooperation in the reduction of both point and non-point sources of nutrient and toxic pollution at the national level in the Danube basin.

NGOs are encouraged to involve other stakeholders, such as local (environment) authorities, water-related institutions, the industrial sector and the agricultural community.

These grants will help NGOs to manage projects that:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilizers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

NGOs are encouraged **to manage activities leading to a direct or indirect, impact on reducing nutrient and toxic substances** through the following approaches. This impact must be measurable through indicators, which should be well defined. Additionally the National Grants should:

- **Involve other stakeholders.** Projects should identify stakeholders from the water-management sector, decision makers in pollution-producing units and other key players, and actively involve them in project implementation.
- **Change consumer behaviour.** NGO projects using an awareness-raising or campaigning approach towards consumers must be able to demonstrate the impact on consumers' behaviour (i.e. in terms of reducing nutrient pollution, **promoting best agricultural practices**).

- **Serve as a model for other areas in the Danube River basin.** Preferred projects are those that use a replicable approach and serve as an example for other areas in the Danube River basin that have similar problems and framework conditions.
- **Promote and assist the application of the Aarhus Convention at the national or local level,** especially by improving the [public](#) access to information on pollution [and their](#) sources and enhancing public participation in [decision-making](#) on Danube water-related issues.
- **Contribute to policy work at the national level.** NGOs are encouraged to contribute to policy development and political discussions related to nutrients in the Danube basin (e.g. national or local pollution abatement programmes, environment education, the implementation of EU directives).
- **Promote networking among NGOs at the national level.** Make nutrient pollution reduction an NGO topic (e.g. a national campaign with concrete local activities; involve other local NGOs into action).
- **Address the trans-boundary perspective and integrated watershed approach.** Projects must intend to increase the understanding of national contributions to trans-boundary environmental problems. Although the pollution problem can be local or national, its consequences are usually regional and affect the neighbouring countries. Especially in those projects addressing land-use development and water management, NGOs should relate the source of pollution with the impact area when different from administrative or political boundaries, and emphasise the responsibility of upstream water-users in the prevention of downstream environmental problems.

Other innovative and creative approaches by NGOs in addressing the nutrient and toxics-related problems in a direct and indirect way are welcomed.

The REC encourages NGOs to use one or several of the following tools in this grant programme:

- **Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.** These components, which represent the most successful NGO tools, should be frequent components of the grant proposals. The results of the NGO activities must be disseminated within the project timeframe and the project outreach must be clearly ensured. The dissemination strategy of the project outcomes should be clearly explained in the proposal.
- **Lobbying and campaigning.** The use of lobbying activities is encouraged, as this allows NGOs to reach and influence policy makers. Campaigning can be the appropriate way to influence consumers, producers, local communities and various stakeholder groups (e.g. with regard to changing producer behaviour on sewage treatment, fertiliser use, production of phosphate-free detergents, etc.).
- **Public participation.** NGOs are encouraged not only to reach the public and the producers of pollution but also to promote and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process in relation to water management, [planning](#) and other relevant environmental processes [reducing pollution](#) in hotspot areas. At the same time such facilitation should not be limited to information dissemination and community involvement, but should also be present in active and lasting dialogue with decision makers, [discussing problems and influencing the decision-making process](#).
- **Preparation for or participation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.** NGOs should actively cooperate with and assist the authorities in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, or its preparation. Activities including the different forms of information and active involvement of all interested parties including NGOs and affected public in phase I and II of the WFD, as well as the preparation for the phase III when the information and consultation of public including users should be organized about the draft RBM plan are encouraged. Existing opportunities for stakeholder and NGO involvement for example through River Basin Committees should be enhanced and improved.
- **Environmental education and training.** Education activities that reach and influence different individuals or target groups (e.g. teachers, pupils, students, associations or other NGOs) are also encouraged. These activities should aim to improve understanding of nutrient and toxics-related problems, as well as engage to prevent and reduce them.

- **Networking and partnerships.** NGOs are encouraged to develop networks and partnerships with other NGOs as well as with other stakeholders from related institutions (e.g. with water and environmental agencies, industry, agricultural cooperatives.)
- **Interactive case projects.** Activities consisting of concrete conservation, rehabilitation work and clean-up actions are encouraged; their lasting benefit should be demonstrated.
- **Monitoring.** Projects which include environmental monitoring work but exclude work requiring sophisticated technical equipment and certified expertise are also encouraged.
- **Research.** NGOs can receive support for simple applied research projects which do not require complex scientific work (e.g. opinion polls or assessment of available data).

Innovative ideas in addressing the reduction of nutrient and toxics pollution are encouraged.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

The environmental issues that the national grants must address are related to the deterioration of ground water and the eutrophication of surface water, both stemming from point and non-point sources of pollution from agriculture, industry and municipal sectors as well as problems which relate to other water management issues.

Grants will be awarded to NGO projects addressing the following nutrient and toxic substances pollution-related issues:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMING

This project intends to support and develop the involvement of NGOs in **name your country**. In **name your country** a local-language granting scheme will be carried out over the period of one year. The calls for projects will be open and competitive. The application process consists of two phases: the concept paper and the full proposal. Different stakeholders (local authorities, academic and scientific organisations, local business including pollution producers) are invited to cooperate with NGOs. Only registered NGOs may apply.

Step 1 – Choosing partners

Following the call for tender on national grants, NGOs should begin to look for partners from their own sectors and other areas (e.g. governments, institutions, universities and businesses) that are working on similar topics. For some NGOs this will be a new challenge, for others, it will be a familiar process. The following resources are recommended for finding partner organisations: personal contacts, other NGOs, local universities, the REC NGO Directory² and environmental agencies. The REC country office staff will assist the applicants.

Step 2 – Concept paper phase (see concept paper form). Deadline for submission: September 2005. Concept paper evaluation: October 2005

NGOs should use the attached concept paper form to propose their project concept. This proposal is shorter and simpler than the full proposal form. The basic information, emphasising the partner or partners, and a short introduction to the project should be included. As outlined in the format, the NGO should estimate the full amount of funds required from the grants programme in order to complete the entire project.

While registering the concept papers, country office staff will pre-screen the eligibility of the project proposals according to the following criteria:

- Applicants must be eligible to receive a grant.
- The concept paper addresses nutrient reduction in the Danube basin.
- The application follows REC standards (the form is completed, the budget and timeline are within the set limits, stakeholders are identified and the cooperation statement is signed).

The concept papers that meet these restrictions will enter the first stage of the evaluation process. The REC CO Grants Officers in cooperation with country representatives of DEF and ICPDR structures will evaluate the concept papers.

Projects will be chosen from this pool based on the following standards:

- **relevance to the issue:** How does the problem addressed fit into the grant's scope of nutrient reduction, as stated in the announcement?
- **the potential impact of the NGO activities:** What does the project intend to improve or change? Do the goals and objectives contribute to the grant programme's scope?
- **approach:**
 - a. Are the **methodology and tools proposed appropriate/realistic** for addressing and solving the problem? To what extent are the NGOs using the suggested tools and approaches?
 - b. **Involvement of other stakeholders:** Are the stakeholders identified and willing to cooperate with the NGO in addressing the environmental problem?
- **the capability of the NGO:** Is the NGO qualified according to its previous project management experience/annual budgets?

² <http://www.rec.org/REC/Databases/NGODirectory/>

NGOs will be notified if their projects are chosen. The DEF representatives taking part in the decision making process will be excluded from the possibility to submit a grant application.

Step 3 – Training on LOG Frame and media work. Timing: October, 2005

A short training will be organised by the REC at the national level to assist the short selected NGOs at the Concept Paper level to prepare the full proposals. All travel related expenses for the participants will be covered by the REC. The training will be organized within one day covering two major components:

I. Component one: LOG Framework approach which will aim at assisting NGOs with project planning. This session will consist of three parts:

1. Introduction to the Logical Framework approach
2. The LOG Frame Process (Analyses of the problem, objectives setting, indicators, planning phase)
3. LOG Frame Matrix for a REC project design

II. Component two: Media session will aim to:

- prepare the selected NGOs to include media and communication components in their proposals;
- assist the NGO applicants with hands-on skills in mass-media communications and holding media events that they should employ during project implementation.

Step 4 – Proposal preparation (see Annex A: Guidelines for a full proposal.) Deadline: December 2005

Only those NGOs with selected concept papers and went through the training will enter the full proposal preparation phase, which will last from November to December 2005. The NGOs should then meet with the identified stakeholders and jointly write the full project proposal. One representative from an NGO must be designated as the project leader for the whole project. The stakeholders are not eligible for grant funding, but they can contribute to the project as consultants. In the preparation of full proposals the NGOs should follow the standard guidelines for writing a project proposal, which will be given by the REC to the selected NGOs after the concept paper stage. Additionally the NGOs should pay attention to the instructions given in the training about LOG frame and media work.. **The full proposal must arrive at the REC country office by insert date within December, 2005.** Only proposals sent by mail will be accepted.

Step 5 – Selection of grantees based on full project proposal. Deadline: December 2005 - January 2006

Project proposals are accepted in local languages and decisions are made on the basis of evaluations undertaken by independent local advisory boards. Representatives of ICPDR and DEF in each country will be asked to contribute to the grants selection process. Grant selection will be based on the project's quality, feasibility, presence and number of cooperative partners, as well as the potential for measurable environmental impact in the country. The selection will be made based on well-defined criteria that will judge:

Environmental impact

- Direct or indirect actions which promise measurable pollution (nutrients and/or toxic) reduction are clearly explained.
- SMART³ indicators are set and the way to verify them is defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used to achieve the goal and objectives.

³ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results Oriented, and Time-bound

Cooperation

- The commitment of stakeholders to the project is proven and their role clearly defined.

Proposal quality

- The action plan is clear, feasible and realistic.
- The budget is cost-effective.

Staff capability

- NGO staff and other experts involved have experience and competence related to the addressed issue.

Step 6 – Winners’ meetings (January 2006)

Once the winning project proposals have been selected, the NGOs will be notified and awarded. They will also be provided with information on financial management and reporting requirements.

Grant winners will be notified and invited to the REC’s country offices for a “winners’ meeting.” During the winners meeting the NGOs will: 1) present their joint projects to the other grantees, 2) get familiar with the REC’s reporting forms and requirements as well as 3) review and sign an award agreement. This document specifies the reporting conditions and disbursement schedule. The grantees will meet the grant officer and financial assistant from the REC’s country office, who will work closely with them throughout the project’s implementation.

Step 7 – Project implementation (January 2006 — January 2007)

Once the contracts have been signed with the awarded NGOs, the projects can be implemented as planned. This will be part of the second project phase, which is expected to start by January 2006.

CONTACTS

For more detailed information on the project application procedure, as well as project guidelines, the country office in *name your country* should be contacted.

Additional Information

For more information on this grant programme, interested parties can:

- Visit the website:
http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/NGO_Support/Grants/NationalDanubeGrants/
- Contact Richard Filcak at the REC’s Head Office (e-mail: Rfilcak@rec.org; tel: [36-26] 504-000; fax: [36-26] 311-294).

More information on the overall Danube Regional Project can be found on the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project web page: <http://www.undp-drp.org>.

Parallel to the national grants, the REC is managing, on behalf of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, second round of the regional grants of up to EUR 35,000 for NGOs working in the Danube basin region. More information on this grant can be found at:

http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/NGO_Support/Grants/RegionalDanubeGrants/



Danube Regional Project

National Grants – Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO National Environmental Projects

Format for Concept Paper for National Grants

*(This is a protected document. You may not modify the forms, but can type the appropriate data into the fields provided. The maximum length of text is limited in each field; the number of available characters is indicated. If you prefer to prepare this information outside of this template,, please answer all of the questions listed below on three to five pieces of paper. Cooperating partners must sign Appendix A. If more than two partners intend to work together, please make copies of Appendix A and sign. **This concept paper should be brief.**)*

A. NGO Information	
NGO name:	(200 characters)
NGO registration number:	(100 characters)
NGO bank account number:	(100 characters)
NGO address, phone number, fax and email	(200 characters)
Name of individual preparing this proposal:	(200 characters)
Address, phone number, fax and email if different from above, for correspondence:	(200 characters)

B. Project Description	
Project Title:	(50 characters)
1) Statement of the identified problem. Please describe the Danube basin-related issue your project will address. Please indicate the relevance of the problem within the identified environmental issues given in the Announcement.	(300 characters)
2) Goal and Objectives: Define the goal and the objectives of the project and make sure they contribute to the overall scope of the grants.	(200 characters)
3) Approach: a) Describe the actions you will take to address this issue. b) Identify the methods or approaches your project intends to use. You can use the list outlined in the announcement or add new and innovative ones. c) Indicate the types of tools you will use.	(500 characters)
4) Impact: Describe the environmental impact of the project, and the direct and indirect relation with the grant's scope (i.e. nutrient reduction).	(150 characters)
5) Timeframe: Estimate the time schedule for completing these tasks.	(200 characters)
6) List of cooperative partners/ stakeholders and the way they will be involved:	(100 characters)

C. Budget: Estimate the total budget for the project.	
a) Funding required from the REC:	(USD)
b) Funding to be provided by other sources:	(USD)

Signature

Date

Contact Names

Country office contact

Applications may be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail, postmarked by **set the date**



Danube Regional Project National Grants – Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO National Environmental Projects

Format for Concept Paper for National Grants

Cooperative Partner Information

This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided. The maximum length of the texts is limited; the number of available characters is indicated.

Please fill in the information for each cooperative partner.

Partner's name	(200 characters)
Address (include country):	(200 characters)
Telephone number:	(50 characters)
Fax number:	(50 characters)
E-mail	(50 characters)

Partner's name	(200 characters)
Address (include country):	(200 characters)
Telephone number:	(50 characters)
Fax number:	(50 characters)
E-mail	(50 characters)

Copy as necessary

NOTES:

- Partners can consist of local or central municipalities, business representatives, scientific laboratories or other institutions.
- By presenting their contact information at this stage the NGO is indicating the partner's interest to assist the full proposal preparation and, at a later date, contribute to the project implementation if the project is supported.
- In addition to stakeholders, other local NGOs can take part in the implementation of the project as partners. Their contact information must be included in this form.

Danube Regional Project (DRP)

National Grants Programme

(Second Round)

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL DRP GRANTS

(Concept paper and full proposal stage)

Send the original proposal to the REC Office in.....

The proposal must be submitted by the end of the day on .., 2005_or it will not be accepted.

Description of DRP National Grants

Introduction

The main scope of the DRP national grants is to facilitate intersectoral cooperation in the reduction of both point and non-point sources of nutrient and toxics pollution at the national level in the Danube basin.

These grants will help NGOs to manage projects that:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilizers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

NGOs are encouraged to involve other stakeholders, such as local (environment) authorities, water-related institutions, the industrial sector and the agricultural community.

NGOs are encouraged to manage activities using the following approaches:

- **Manage activities with a concrete and measurable impact on the reduction of nutrient and toxic substances, either directly or indirectly.**
- **Involve other stakeholders.**
- **Change consumers' behaviour.**
- **Serve as a model for other areas in the Danube River basin.**
- **Promote and assist the application of the Aarhus Convention principles at the national level.**
- **Contribute to policy work at the national level.**
- **Promote networking among NGOs at the national level.**
- **Address the trans-boundary perspective and watershed approach.**

Other innovative and creative approaches in addressing nutrient and toxics-related problems in a direct or indirect way are welcomed.

The REC encourages NGOs to use the following tools in this grant programme:

- **Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media;**
- **Lobbying and campaigning;**
- **Public participation;**
- **Preparation for or participation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive;**
- **Environmental education and training;**
- **Networking and partnerships;**
- **Interactive case projects;**
- **Monitoring;**
- **Research.**

The REC encourages innovative ideas for other tools that could prove useful in addressing the reduction of nutrients and toxics pollution.

Environmental Topic

Nutrient pollution is the contamination of surface and groundwater by excessive levels of nutrients. Although the natural input of nutrients is a prerequisite for the growth of organisms (i.e. the natural food chain), and while river floodplains are able to cope with large amounts of nutrients, pollution is typically caused by human activities and includes point sources such as municipal sewage treatment plants and industry emissions (e.g. food waste). Non-point sources refer to the spraying of commercial fertilisers and animal waste onto agricultural land, from where it infiltrates groundwater, or drains with rainwater into creeks, lakes and rivers.

Hazardous substances often cause water pollution. The term 'hazardous' applies to substances that have toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic or bio-accumulative effects, in particular those that decompose slowly or are persistent and have a significant adverse impact on living organisms. Heavy metals such as copper, iron, manganese, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, mercury, nickel, lead etc., are toxic substances, which stem primarily from mining and metal industries. These substances tend to accumulate in the food chain and represent a big risk to aquatic and human life. Other countless hazardous compounds causing toxic and/or chronic pollution are of an organic nature and stem from the chemical, pharmaceutical and paper industries.

The Danube Joint Survey published in May 2002 identified various chemical pollutants such as heavy metals, volatile organic hydrocarbons, polar pesticides and pharmaceuticals, which are directly affecting the chemical and biological status of the Danube River. The study on nutrients found different quantities of nitrogen and phosphorus in organic and inorganic forms along the Danube River, which indicated that the water in different parts of the river is contaminated. As a result, the middle reach of the Danube indicated eutrophication, which can cause the pollution of drinking water sources and decrease biodiversity in the long-term. Based on the level of water contamination different hotspots were detected and prioritised.

The *Trans-boundary Analysis* produced within the framework of the GEF/UNDP Danube Pollution Reduction Programme 1999 is available on the ICPDR website: <www.icpdr.org>. We suggest NGOs use this resource for information on pollution and ways to address it in different parts of the Danube River basin. The publication contains maps with information on the pollution hotspots, wetlands and other useful pollution data generated in different pollution sectors such as municipalities, agriculture, industry and land-use and wetlands.

The Danube Regional Project has outlined the following approaches to reducing nutrient pollution in the Danube River basin:

- improving awareness and knowledge of pollution;
- improving the management tools available to prevent, reduce and treat pollution;
- developing prognoses on pollution development and mitigation programmes.

The environmental issues that the DRP national grants must address are related to the deterioration of groundwater and the eutrophication of surface water, both stemming from point and non-point sources of pollution from agriculture, industry and municipal sectors.

Grants will be awarded to NGO projects addressing the following nutrient and toxic substances pollution-related issues:

Agriculture

- Introduce and apply the best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in ground- and/or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industry

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution (point emissions from, for example, chemical and paper industries).
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipality

- Address household waste management (e.g. reduce the use of conventional detergents).
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment (e.g. construction of wetlands).

Land-use and wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

More information about the pollution problems, and the ways to address them, can be found on the Danube Regional Project website www.undp-drp.org and the REC's website <www.rec.org>. These websites also give some examples of solutions that can be followed by NGOs. We therefore suggest that NGOs visit these websites while drafting their proposals.

Programme Guidelines

Local Administration

The REC's country offices administer the DRP national grants programme.

Eligibility

Registered NGOs with an environmental focus in the Danube countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro are eligible for DRP national grants. Applicants should hold an NGO bank account.

NGOs applying for DRP national grants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- commitment to cooperating with different stakeholders;
- proven track record in project management;
- experience with water, agriculture or nutrient issues (preferred); and
- access to office equipment and facilities for effective communication.

Financial Terms

Individual national grants range from USD 5,000 to USD 10,000, for a project period of 12 months. In exceptional cases (i.e. proposals that involve more than three NGOs, require some form of construction or involve extended networking), the amount can exceed this limit by 50 percent (i.e. up to a maximum USD 15,000).

The REC encourages NGOs to seek matching or supporting funds from other sources such as other foundations, from state and local governments, or environmentally friendly businesses in their countries.

Limitations

DRP national grants **do not fund**:

- projects in which the main result is research, data collection and sampling;
- purely operational expenditures, such as salaries or rent; or
- the purchase of land, buildings, investments, or vehicles not related to the project.

Technical limitations:

- Organisations which by the time of the announcement are still running a current DRP Grant at the National level.
- If an organisation is involved in two concept papers, the NGO must appoint

different project leaders for each project proposal.

- At the full proposal stage only one grant can be awarded to one NGO.
- Projects lasting for more than 12 months.
- Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) National Focal Point will be excluded from the decision-making process if their NGO is submitting a grant application.

Evaluation

When registering the concept papers, country office staff will pre-screen the eligibility of the project proposals according to the following criteria:

- Applicants are eligible to receive a REC grant.
- The concept paper addresses the issue of reducing pollution in the Danube River basin.
- The application follows the REC standards (form is completed, the budget and the timeline are within the limits, stakeholders identified and the cooperation statement is signed).

The concept papers that meet these criteria enter the first stage of the evaluation procedure.

First stage

Evaluation of the concept paper

At this stage of the application the country office carries out an evaluation. REC country offices, with the help of the Danube Environmental Forum national focal point representative will decide which NGOs will prepare full project proposals, based on their concept papers. The selection process will consist of the review of the individual concept paper and the evaluation meeting, which will take place between the REC and DEF representatives at the REC country office. (DEF national focal points are excluded from the decision-making process if their NGO submits a proposal).

Projects will be chosen from this pool based on the following standards:

- **Relevance to the issue.** How does the problem addressed fit into the grant's scope of nutrient and toxic reduction, as stated in the announcement?
- **The potential impact of NGO activities.** What does the project intend to improve or

change? Do the goals and objectives contribute to the grant's scope?

- **Approach.** Are the proposed methodology and tools appropriate/realistic for addressing and solving the problem? To what extent are the NGOs using the tools and approaches suggested in the announcement?
- **Involvement of other stakeholders.** Have stakeholders been identified and are they willing to cooperate with the NGO in addressing the environmental problem?
- **Capability of the NGO.** Is the NGO qualified in terms of its previous project management experience/annual budgets?

Second Stage

Evaluation of the full proposal

After the first stage of the evaluation the best concept papers be asked to develop full proposals, which will be evaluated in the second round by a panel consisting of Local Advisory Board members and additional experts such representatives of the Danube Environmental Forum and International Commission for the Protection of the Danube Region. In assessing the proposals for the DRP national grants programme the evaluating panel will consider the following criteria:

Environmental impact

- Direct or indirect actions that promise measurable pollution (nutrients and/or toxic) reduction are clearly explained.
- SMART¹ indicators are set and the way to verify them is defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used to achieve the goal and objectives.
- Multiplier effect: the project can be replicated.

Cooperation

- There is proven commitment to the project from stakeholders and their role is clearly defined.

Proposal quality

- Action plan is clear, feasible and realistic.
- Budget is cost-effective.

Staff capability

- NGO staff and other experts involved have experience and competence related to the addressed issue.

Action plan: tips *

A clear action plan is critical to the success of your application. In your action plan, address the following questions:

Who does **what**?

How do they do it?

When do they do it?

Where do they do it?

Why do they do it?

** This subject is treated in greater detail in the section "Application Preparation."*

Project Period

The project period must not exceed 12 months and the implementation must start within one month of the award announcement. The timeframe of the project implementation is expected to be January 2006 — January 2007. All projects must finish by January 2007.

¹ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely

Terms and Conditions

Notification

All applicants are notified of the decision of the REC's grant evaluation board no later than six weeks after the application deadline.

Award Agreement

After the full proposal evaluation the grant winners are invited to the country office for a "winners' meeting," at which the project leader presents the project and meets the other winners. Another important activity at the winners' meeting is preparing the award agreement. The country director/representative writes the award agreement based on the suggestions of the grantee. The award agreement states the approved budget for the grant, the disbursement schedule, the reporting requirements and any other conditions.

When signed by the grantee and the REC country director/representative, the award agreement is a legal contract between the REC and the NGO, which is represented by the project leader.

The award agreement also states that the project must function as described in the grant application. If there is any significant change to the project proposal, it must be submitted and approved in writing by the country director/representative before the change takes place. Significant changes include: a budget difference of any line item greater than 10%; a change in the dates of project implementation; and major changes to the idea of the project.

The award must include the signatures of:

- the project leader, who signs on behalf of the NGO; and
- the country director/representative, who signs on behalf of the REC.

All signatures must be validated with the NGO stamp. With the signature of the REC country director/representative, and the stamp of the REC, the award agreement is a legally binding document. Further, the terms and conditions outlined in the guidelines and the call for projects are legally binding.

Pre-conditions

In many cases pre-conditions are set. These must be met by a deadline, stated in the award letter, before

the award agreement is signed and the first instalment can be forwarded.

Grant Payment

The NGO must have a bank account and supply this information to the REC. Grant funds are transferred from the REC's country office account to the NGO's bank account. Grant payment cannot be made in cash or by cheque. The transfer is made in either the local currency or the original currency named in the grant. The budget summary must be proposed in USD.

Budget Breakdowns

The REC delivers the DRP grants in two or three payments. The NGO may choose how they want to arrange the budget in the application stage (use the budget summary form). The NGO decides how they want the money allocated based on the way their project is organised. At the winners' meeting, this issue will be discussed and agreed upon between the project leader and the REC country director/representative.

The first payment of the grant is made when the pre-conditions have been met and the signed award agreement has been received in the country office.

The next payments are made when the country director/representative approves the required reports. The NGO then finishes the project. Once the REC country office has approved the final report, the last 10% is paid to the NGO. Each time a grant payment is made, the NGO's project leader is notified.

Reporting Requirements

The project leader is responsible for preparing the narrative and financial part of the reports, following all reporting requirements. Each partner should report to the project leader about his or her activity. The project leader reviews the partner's reports for accuracy and sends it completed with the financial receipts to the REC country office for approval.

The award agreement states the reporting requirements. All reports must be in the local language. A short summary of the final report in English is required from the NGO for the REC Head Office.

Detailed reporting instructions will be provided at the winners' meeting.

Auditing

The REC's staff or private audit firms may monitor project performance at any time to make sure that it is in order. The REC reserves the right to review finances and expenditures at any time during the project period (in response, for example, to changes in local legislation) in addition to the obligatory review one year after project completion. Accordingly, all original receipts must be kept for one year after the project has finished.

Returning funds

If, for any reason, conditions are not met, funds have to be returned to the REC country office. The award agreement is a legal document and the requirements should be met by the NGO and the REC. In case of disagreement, national legislation is applicable.

Equipment

When REC funds are used to purchase equipment, the receipt must show that the REC purchased the equipment. In other words, the REC's name must be on the invoice and the REC **Equipment Account Form** should be filled out and included in the financial report.

The award agreement states that the REC maintains ownership of the equipment for the entire period of the project. During this period, the REC is "lending" the equipment to the NGO. At the end of the project; or if the NGO ceases to exist; or if the NGO no longer needs the equipment; all pieces of equipment costing more than USD 200 must be made available for use by another NGO. In such cases the country office will decide on the future use of the equipment.

In the final report, the NGO may request to prolong the use of the equipment, stating by whom and for what purposes. It must be used to support environmental, non-profit activities.

The NGO's performance concerning the grant is taken into consideration, as well as the information in the completed equipment accounting form, when reviewing the request. If the request is approved, the NGO takes ownership of the equipment.

In the unlikely event that the NGO is using the equipment improperly, for example, in a profit-making venture, the REC country office reserves the right to take it back immediately.

Access to Information

All approved grant applications and their products are considered to be public domain. Any information resulting from grant projects is available for the public. NGOs are encouraged to develop project websites highlighting the results of the implemented projects and promoting them to other stakeholders.

If a project results in a publication, the grantee is requested to provide the REC country office with complimentary copies for further distribution.

Rejected proposals are not made available to the public unless the author gives the REC country office permission to make the application public.

Endorsement and Disclaimer

Sponsorship by the donors of any proposal does not suggest their endorsement of the results. They assume no liability, expressed or implied, for damages arising from any activity of grantees. The opinions expressed in connection with the project [or, publication] does not necessarily represent the policies or opinions of the donors.

Grants Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of UNDP/GEF and REC support is appreciated. Any announcement published by the NGO, such as a newsletter article or conference brochure, should include an acknowledgement such as following:

"This grant is supported by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project"

Use of REC and DRP Logos

NGOs making use of the REC's and DRP logos on a publication, poster, T-shirt, stickers, etc, should contact to inform their REC Grants Officer. REC will forward the official logos to the NGO upon request. The logos should be used together with the above acknowledgement sentence.

VAT

The DRP grants will not cover services and purchases that include payment of customs or import charges and duties, including VAT.

Full Proposal Preparation

The total funds requested usually exceed the amount of funds available. Therefore, applications are selected in a competitive process. The local advisory board established at the REC's country offices evaluate the applications entirely on the basis of the submitted proposal.

The proposal must include the following items:

- **Proposal cover page (Appendix A);**
- **Logical framework (Appendix B);**
- **Narrative description of the project (Appendix C);**
- **Completed budget summary (Appendix D)**
- **Budget justification by phase and activity (Appendix E)**
- **Statement of Cooperation (Appendix F);**

And support documentation:

- **Description of the NGOs background;**
- **CVs of the project coordinator and all other key persons involved in the project (NGOs or other stakeholders);**

How to apply

If your NGO and project meet the eligibility criteria for DRP national grants, please follow the following steps:

1. Proposal cover page

Complete the cover page (Appendix A), sign it and stamp it.

2. Log frame

Prior to writing a detailed description of the project, several elements should be considered. The REC recommends that applicants use the logical framework approach (LFA) to formulate and develop the project, following the steps below. It is expected that the analysis and preparation of the logical framework (or logframe) will be done during the preparatory meeting, when the applicant NGO will meet together with the partners (other NGOs and key stakeholders).

The results should be summarised in the logframe matrix (Appendix B). **Please keep the logframe matrix for the project to one page (the information in the table should be concise and specific).** However, detailed information about the project must be included in the narrative description (as explained later in this document).

The LFA is a tool for project design and management. It consists of two phases: the analysis phase and the planning phase. The output of the LFA is the logframe matrix, a table which shows the goals, objectives, outputs, and activities of the project, the indicators which will be used to evaluate the project, and the project risks and assumptions.

How to develop a logical framework

Designing a project starts by defining the contours of the project's intervention area and making an inventory of all related problems. An analysis of the identified problems enables the relevant project parties to decide on the precise set of problems that will be addressed by the project and to select the key problem.

Analysis phase:

problems→objectives→strategy

The analysis phase normally starts with a basic idea generated by stakeholders related to an existing problem. The analysis should break this problem down into a set of smaller problems. The problems should be listed according to cause and effect.

Internal logic is the basis for the logical framework, which is designed during the analysis phase. It visualises the causal and hierarchical relations between project activities, project results, the project objectives and the overall goal.

The next step is for the project team to agree upon a project strategy. This is achieved by developing a series of solutions needed to attain the objectives, and choosing which objectives will be included in the project and which will not. The selected strategy and objectives then become the focus of the project and can be used to complete the logframe matrix.

The last step is to complete the logframe matrix. It is important to remember that the logframe matrix is not a form to be filled in but the result of careful analysis and reasoning, which must be done before filling in the boxes.

3. The narrative description (Appendix C)

When preparing the narrative description of the project, the applicant must fill out all sections of Appendix C by responding in detail to the questions below. This template document should be about four pages in length (including the project plan).

3.a) Project statement

- Provide a description of the specific Danube nutrient or toxic reduction related problem or needs the project addresses. Why are they important? Are they significant for the country?

3.b) Detailed project plan

Overall goal of the project

What is the general goal (broader objective) that the project will attain? Please be aware that the general goal should correspond with the overall goal given in the grant announcement related to nutrients and/or toxic reduction.

How does the goal fit (integrate) into the overall objectives of the DRP grants component, which are:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilizers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

Objectives

- What are the specific objectives that the project plans to achieve? The objectives should be set in accordance with the main goal of the project.
- How does the objectives help directly or indirectly to reduce the load of nutrients or toxic substances.

Activities/time frame

- What activities do you plan in order to achieve the goal and objectives? How do they correspond to the suggested approaches and tools of this grants programme?
- Are these activities impacting the reduction of Danube pollution directly or indirectly?
- Describe in detail the steps to be taken for each activity, including which organisation (NGOs or other stakeholders) will carry them out.

- What is the timeframe of all planned activities?
- Are any other organisations cooperating in the implementation of this project?
- Who is the target group for each activity?
- What independent references (media, local authorities other beneficiaries) are on hand to report on the project's progress and achievements?

Expected outputs and results

- What will be the results or outputs of the proposed activities?
- What is the expected impact and benefit of the project, what improvement and positive changes will the project will bring?
- How will you determine whether your activities have led to the achievement of the set objectives?
- What means will you use to determine how your project contributed to the overall programme goal?
- What qualitative and quantitative indicators will be used to measure the extent to which the project achieves the expected outcomes and effects? List them.
- How will information resulting from the project be disseminated to the public?
- Can this project be used as a model for others? How?
- Are the results of the project sustainable?

Follow-up

- Do you plan follow-up activities? Describe them.
- Can the results of this project be used as a model for others? How?

3.c) Stakeholders

As emphasised throughout this application, proper identification and involvement of all key stakeholders in the project is required by the REC. Under this section, please explain how you identify the stakeholders, what their relation is to the problem and in what way they were involved in the project preparation. Fill out all the information required in Appendix C for each stakeholder separately.

4. Budget summary (Appendix D)

Appendix D, describing the budget for the whole project, must be clearly and fully completed for the part of the budget requested from REC. State amounts in USD.

Please include in the budget summary the over all amount of your project including the committed amount by other donors for your project (if applicable).

5. Budget justification (Appendix E)

The lead NGO must prepare a detailed budget justification for the project, which is the basis for the budget summary. Use Appendix E to prepare the budget for each activity. Please follow the guide below, and add any other details appropriate to your project.

I. Break down by phase and year

Most projects are long enough to be divided into phases. The NGO should decide how many months each project phase will last. If your project is divided into phases, please indicate the length of each phase. Then indicate the budget required to pay for each phase.

II. Break down by tasks

When you are in the planning stages of a project, it is difficult to know exactly how much things will cost. By doing this budget exercise, you will be able to picture how the project will progress. You should imagine each step of the process and try to think of all the different things you will need to pay for. Then try to fit all of these costs into the budget items of the budget summary form. For example, bus tickets go in travel, and bird food goes in supplies.

For each item listed below, try to estimate or predict the entire cost throughout the life of the project. Be as specific as you can, even if you don't know all of the details yet. Write all these details on a separate sheet or sheets of paper from the budget summary. Here are the budget items listed as the following:

Stipends/ salaries (monthly)

Specify the amount of time that the project officer or project leader and staff will spend in running the project by showing how much they earn per month and during the term of the project.

Consultants/ contract personnel (for occasional work)

Estimate for each consultant how much time they are going to spend on the project and how much each person earns.

Travel

For each trip list the means of transportation, destination, purpose, number of people and the cost per trip per person.

Accommodation and food

Approximate the price of accommodation per person per night, per diem allowance per person, number of people staying and the number of days.

Equipment

Specify type of equipment, how many pieces are needed and the price per piece. Why is the equipment needed? According to the REC's financial rules, **“equipment” is any item**

costing more than USD 200 and which is useful for more than one year. Furniture, computers and other machinery such as farm implements are examples of equipment. Software may be “equipment” depending on the value.

Supplies

List items and amount, price estimation per item and purpose. Supplies include paper, floppy discs, calculators, upgrades to computers, etc.

Communication costs

Estimate e-mail, telephone and fax expenses; estimate mailing costs; other, detail purpose of expenses.

Publication costs

Estimate the number of pages, number of copies, language, topic, cost per copy and cost of writing, editing, printing and distributing.

Translation services

Specify languages; estimate the number of hours or pages, fee per hour or page, purpose.

Other direct costs

Specify (e.g. rental of conference facility: number of days, price per day, purpose, etc.)

When estimating costs, please consider the inflation rate in your country and how prices will be affected over the course of the project. Include the inflation rate when you give the total cost. Unfortunately, if there are unexpected costs, like a significant rise in inflation, the REC is not able to offer compensation.

The REC does not cover contingency costs.

Although it is not a requirement, you may consider using additional funds or in-kind support to cover the project activities costs. If this is the case, you need to indicate this amount under Appendix D (Summary Budget) as well as under Appendix E for each activity. The REC is interested to know only about additional funds for which donor commitment is secured. In-kind may include materials and supplies, work, communication, etc.

6. Statement of cooperation (Append. F)

Appendix F should indicate the commitment of the stakeholder to take part in this project, including the role they will play. The statement should be signed by both the project coordinator and the nominated person from the stakeholder' side. The agreement should be signed with each of the stakeholders identified.

7. Description of the NGO background

Describe your NGO's background and its capability to implement the project (with emphasis on your experience to sustainable development related

issues). Include the NGO's mission or goals; its legal status; the size of its active membership; its target audience; its decision-making process; its past accomplishments; and its current projects.

8. Curriculum vitae of the project leader

The REC country office requires documentation of all the people you expect to pay to work on your project. Their names, addresses and a description of their roles or tasks in the project must be included. If new people join the project, please inform the country office.

Standard format for curriculum vitae should include:

1. Family name:
2. First names:
3. Date of birth:
4. Place of birth:

5. Nationality:

6. Present employer:

7. Years of experience in the field:

8. Key qualifications (relevant to the project):

9. Education: under this heading, summarise college/university and other specialised education of staff members, giving names of schools, dates attended and degrees obtained.

10. Experience record: under this heading, list all positions, locations, assignments, titles, dates, names of employers. Indicate work undertaken which best illustrates the ability to handle the tasks assigned in the present project.



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
for Central and Eastern Europe

Introduction to the REC

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Center fulfils this mission by encouraging cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, by supporting the free exchange of information and by promoting public participation in environmental decision-making.

The United States, the European Commission and Hungary established the REC in 1990. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of twenty-seven countries and the European Commission, and on an international agreement with the Government of Hungary. The REC has its headquarters in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices in each of its 15 beneficiary CEE countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo.

Recent donors are the European Commission and the governments of the United States, Japan, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as other inter-governmental and private institutions.

The REC assists environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments, businesses, and other environmental stakeholders in fulfilling their role in a democratic, sustainable society. The REC works in nine programme areas:

1. Environmental capacity building
2. Information
3. NGO support
4. Business and environment
5. Local initiatives
6. Public participation
7. Environmental policy
8. Climate change
9. Environmental law

Appendix A

Danube Regional Project (DRP)

National Grant Application – Second Round

1. Proposal Cover Page

This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided.

Project title:				
Lead NGO information				
Name of NGO				
Registration number		E-mail:		
Telephone number		Fax:		
Address (include country)				
Project leader				
Dates of project period	Start date:	- - year – month - day	End date:	- - year – month - day
Brief description of the project (400 characters)				
Products to be developed (bullet points)				
Amount requested from REC (USD)				
Bank info (name, address, account holder, account number, Swift code)	Bank name: Account holder: Account number: SWIFT Code:			
To be filled in by REC	Date Received		Responsible grant officer	
			Keywords	
Decision				

Use extra sheets where necessary

Appendix B

Danube Regional Project (DRP)

National Grant Application – Second Round

2. Logical Framework

This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided.

	2.1 The project	2.2 Indicators of achievement	2.3 Stakeholders/ beneficiaries
a. Overall goal	What is the goal to which the project will contribute?	What are the key indicators related to the overall objective?	What are the long-term partnerships this project will bring about? Who are the long-term beneficiaries of this project?
b. Project objectives	What are the specific objectives of the project?	What are the quantitative or qualitative indicators showing whether and to what extent the project's specific objectives are achieved?	Who are the strategic partners (stakeholders) required to achieve each of the objectives?
c. Expected outputs and results	What are the concrete outputs envisaged to achieve the specific objectives? What are the envisaged effects and benefits of the project? What improvements and changes will be produced by the project?	What are the indicators to measure the extent to which the project achieves the envisaged results and effects?	Who are the beneficiaries of the project results? Who will further use the project outputs?
d. Activities & timeframe	What are the key activities to be carried out and in what sequence in order to produce the expected results?	What are the methods and approaches used to implement each of the activities?	Who will participate in the project activities? What will be their contribution?

Appendix C

Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grant Application- Second Round	
3. Narrative Project Description	
This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided.	
Project title:	
3.a Problem Statement	Description of the addressed problem:
3.b. Detailed project plan	Project goal:
	Project objectives:
	Activities/timeframe:
	Expected outputs and results:
	Planned follow-up:
3.c. Stakeholders	
Stakeholder 1	Organisation/entity
	Name of the contact person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:
Stakeholder 2	Organisation/entity
	Name of the involved person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:
Stakeholder 3	Organisation/entity
	Name of the involved person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:

Use extra sheets where necessary

Appendix D

<p>Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grant Application – Second Round</p>			
<p>Budget Summary for the Entire Project (in USD)</p>			
<p>This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided..</p>			
Project title:			
Lead NGO information			
Name of NGO			
Registration number		E-mail:	
Telephone number		Fax number:	
Address (include country)			
Project leader			
Dates of project period	Start date:	- - year – month - day	End date: - - year – month – day

Over all budget:

Budget items	Phase I	Phase II	Budget USD
Stipends/ salaries			
Equipment			
Travel			
Accommodation and food			
Supplies			
Consultants/ contract personnel			
Publication costs			
Translation services			
Communication costs			
Other direct costs (please specify)			
Total requested from the REC:			
Additional funds committed by other donors/in-kind:			
Total project budget: (REC + additional funds)			

Please sign and stamp this budget summary.
A signature will validate the document.

Appendix E

(copy as necessary)

Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grant Application – Second Round

Budget Justification (in USD)

This is a protected document. You cannot modify the forms, but you can type the appropriate data into the fields provided.

Phase:

Activity:

Timeframe:

REC budget item	Description	Unit cost/personnel cost	Number of units/work time	Requested from the REC	Other support/in-kind contribution
Stipends/salary					
Equipment					
Travel					
Accommodation and food					
Supplies					
Consultants/contract personnel					
Publication costs					
Translation services					
Communication costs					
Other direct costs (please specify)					
TOTAL Activity					

Note:

- This form should be copied and filled out for each of the project activities and for each phase. Should an activity bridge two phases, then the costs should be split accordingly and two of these forms prepared..
- Under “description” please give a detailed explanation about the budgeted amount. Example: (1) for consultants/contracted personnel you need to specify each of the contracted experts or organisations in relation to the respective activity; (2) For travel, specify the name of the person travelling, destination and the means of transport.

Appendix F

(copy as necessary)

<p>Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grant Application – Second Round</p>	
<h2>Statement of Cooperation</h2>	
<p>By signing this statement of cooperation, we agree to work together in implementing this project if the proposal is selected according to the work plan provided in the full proposal. We all agree that the project coordinator of the lead NGO is responsible for coordinating all stakeholders, maintain the communication with the REC and fulfil the reporting requirements.</p>	
<p>The stakeholders are responsible to bring their contribution to the project according to the description and the timeframe given in the proposal, providing input for the activities on time as well as maintaining close cooperation with the other project stakeholders and beneficiaries.</p>	
Project title:	

Stakeholder information

Organisation/entity:			
Field of expertise:		Phone number:	
E-mail address:		Fax number:	
Address:			
Contact person:			
Name and signature of the partner (please stamp and date):			
Name and signature of the NGO project leader (please stamp and date):			

Notes:

1. If more than two partners intend to cooperate on this project, please make copies of the Statement of Cooperation as necessary. Both lead NGO and partner should sign and stamp this statement at the project preparation meeting. The document, in its original, should be submitted with the full proposal package.
2. Stakeholders can consist of local or central municipalities, business representatives, scientific laboratories or other institutions. In addition, a letter of interest, which indicates the partner's commitment to assisting the project implementation and describes their specific role in the project, must be submitted at the full proposal stage.
3. Other local NGOs can take part in the implementation of the project. This statement must be signed by them and submitted to the REC country office as part of the full proposal stage.

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REC Country Office: Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Amount of Grant Fund: 50.000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 49.972 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 6

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

Information dissemination of the second round

Call for National grants within the second round of the Danube Regional Project (DRP) was announced - distributed through various communication tools:

- REC BiH Bulletin;
- REC BiH Web site (<http://www.rec.org.ba>)¹.
- Environmental NGOs network /web portal/ "EkoMrezaBiH": <http://www.ekomrezabih.net>
- Environmental NGOs mailing list (app. 170 e-mail addresses).
- REC BiH staff used the opportunity to introduce grant program on various NGO meetings/trainings in the country.

Information on BiH national grants time frame

In accordance with project ToR, deadline for concept paper and full project proposal was agreed and announced, as well as another deadlines.

Timeframe:

Announcement	1 st August 2005
Deadline for Concept paper	20 th September 2005
Concept paper evaluation	3 rd October 2005
CP winners training	31 st October 2005
Deadline for Full proposals submission	12 th December 2005
LAB meeting	22 nd December 2005
Winners meeting	12 th January 2006

-
- ¹ Materials available on the web sites are the following: Call for National grants; Guidelines for Preparing Full Proposal for National Grants; Short description of the DRP Project and grant program; Time frame of the national grants program.
 - After final evaluation web site was updated with results and criteria of evaluation and power point presentations of each awarded project.

Concept paper pre-screening

The NGOs were invited to submit their concept papers (short description of the project with eligibility documents) and to identify the obligated key stakeholders. They were asked to follow the 'Concept Paper Form' and to submit all necessary documentation, which was described in the Call for project proposals /concept paper stage/.

Applications were delivered by mail to the REC BiH Office in Sarajevo by the end of the workday on September 20th 2005. Concept papers received after specified deadline and sent by fax or e-mail were not taken into consideration. REC CO BiH staff reviewed all received concept papers, in technical and administrative context, and did the selection and archiving according to specified criteria. 38 applications (concepts) were received in total. They were all numbered, filed and copied. The copies of the concept papers, together with the Evaluation Form and evaluation instructions, previously prepared by the REC BiH based on criteria given in the Call for Grants, were hand delivered to the LAB members on 23rd September 2005.

Local Advisory Board (LAB) composition and Concept paper evaluation process

In respect with the DRP grant program criteria, REC BiH officially invited ICPDR and DEF BiH focal points to join the Local Advisory Board (LAB).

REC BiH appointed Local Advisory Board (LAB) and it was consisted of the following members:

- **On behalf of ICPDR:** Ms. Naida Andjelic, B.Sc. of Hydro Engineering - expert (works in Public Enterprise Sava River Basin) - officially nominated by the state level Ministry - ICPDR BiH focal point.
- **On behalf of DEF:** Mr. Viktor Bjelic, DEF member; B.Sc. in Geography and Tourism (NGO Young researchers of Banja Luka) – officially nominated by the DEF BiH focal point.
- **Independent expert:** Mr. Mihajlo Markovic², Ph. D. of Agronomy (professor at the Faculty of Agriculture of Banja Luka University and BiH and focal point for UNCCD convention).

LAB meeting for concept paper evaluation was held on 3rd October 2005, in the REC office in Sarajevo. REC BiH was in charge for facilitating, chairing the meeting and taking LAB minutes. After short presentation of the project and methods of work by Project Manager, LAB Members evaluated the concept papers, giving their comments and appraisals. Out of 38 concepts submitted, LAB chose 12 concepts for the second phase (preparation of full project proposals).

NGOs notification about the results of Concept Paper evaluation

The REC BiH notified the NGOs whose concept papers were selected (the official letters with LAB suggestions/remarks were sent by mail on 5th October 2005) and invited them to submit full project proposals by December 12th 2005, following the given Guidelines (in local language). They were also invited to participate on the Training in the scope of DRP grant program.

Applicants/NGOs, whose concept papers were not approved, were informed about the results, by official letters with LAB explanations sent by mail on 5th October 2005.

Information about evaluation process, pending and rejected concept papers is available on REC BiH web site under the link (<http://www.rec.org.ba/danube2call.htm>)

Concept paper evaluation results are also announced in the REC BiH Bulletin (Issue: Autumn 2005).

-
- ² Expert involved in many agricultural projects including UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project - "Policies for the control of agricultural point and non-point sources of pollution" and "Pilot project on agricultural pollution reduction" (Project Outputs 1.2 and 1.3) during 2003-2004 as National Expert of GFA Terra Systems GmbH.

Information about CP evaluation and LAB CVs were sent to PM, Mr. Richard Filcak by e-mail on 5th October 2005.

Training of Log-frame and Work with the Media

In accordance with the DRP national grants project timeframe, REC BiH organized training session with the aim to assist the short selected NGOs at the Concept Paper level to prepare the full proposals. Invitation letters and agenda were sent to the selected NGO representatives by e-mail.

The training was organized on 31st October 2005, in the REC office in Sarajevo and was covering two mayor components:

1. Component one: Full proposal preparation (including LOG Frame and Budget)
2. Component two: Media session

REC BiH staff prepared training materials and presentations that were distributed to NGOs during the training:

- DRP presentation and the grants (translated in local languages);
- Presentation on Full proposal writing, how to fulfill REC FP forms, Components of full project proposal with emphasize on Log- frame and indicators;
- How to prepare project budget;
- Example of good developed budget (break down by tasks);
- Training Program: Using the Media to Reach the Goals of DRP-Funded Projects/Training Handout (translated in local languages); Presentation on work with mass media, How to use the media effectively etc.;
- Presentation on press release tips;
- Manual for NGOs "Working with the mass media".

Beside mentioned presentation/materials, trainees also got hardcopy original of the following:

- Manual for NGOs (Project proposals writing; Project Budgeting and Project Management);
- Manual on Aarhus Convention in BiH; and
- Manual on Elements of strategic implementation of Aarhus Convention in BiH

All invited (15) NGOs participated at the training and they evaluated that training was very successful and very useful for their future work on full proposal preparation.

Detailed information about training and training materials were sent to PM, *Mr. Richard Filcak by e-mail on 2nd November 2005.*

Full proposal evaluation - Local Advisory Board (LAB) meeting

LAB meeting for the full project proposal evaluations was held at the REC BiH Office in Sarajevo at 22nd December 2005. REC BiH staff also participated at the meeting and was in charge for facilitating, chairing the meeting and taking LAB minutes.

LAB members evaluated full project proposals, giving their comments and marks. Final decision about the most qualitative projects was made by the consensus. After decision, the LAB members were obliged to sign the evaluation form for each awarded project with their comments (if existed) and awarded amount. They were also obliged to give detail explanations for rejected project proposals.

Out of 9 submitted full proposals, **LAB approved 6 most quality projects, in total amount 49.972 USD.**

The results of the LAB meeting and awarded grants are posted on the REC BiH web site and announced in the REC BiH Bulletin (winter 2006 edition). REC BiH sent press release to the BiH news agencies.

LAB minutes of the project proposals evaluation were sent by e-mail to PM Mr. Richard Filcak on 9th January 2006. Signed hardcopy of LAB minutes was sent to HO Finance, as well.

Notification of NGOs on LAB full proposal decision

The REC BiH notified all NGOs who submitted project proposals about the LAB decision by the official letters, sent by mail. Awarded NGOs were notified about the LAB decision; amounts awarded and were invited at the Winners Meeting. Rejected NGOs were notified about the LAB decision and detailed reasons for project proposals rejection, based on the LAB comments.

Winners Meeting

The grantees were invited to the Winners Meeting at the REC Office in Sarajevo on 12th January 2006. At the meeting, the project leaders presented the projects, and after discussions on the budget lines with REC BiH Financial Manager, they were informed about reporting procedure (progress and final narrative and financial reports) and way of payments. The Award Agreements were signed between the REC BiH and NGOs representatives in two original copies (one copy for each side).

The first payment (40%) of the awarded amount was made to the NGOs after the winners meeting. Subsequently payments (40%) were made upon revision of the required reports, in accordance with the approved disbursement schedule. Third payment (20%) was transferred to the NGOs bank accounts after submission and approval of the Final Reports.

After Winners Meeting, REC BiH prepare and sent press releases to media agencies and uploaded NGO projects power point presentations to REC BiH web site.

Signed Award Agreements in (original) were sent to HO Finance on 13th January 2006.

Information

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1.	LO 14 630	7400 USD	Improvement of water protection from farms and slaughterhouses pollution in river Sava area	<p>Goal of the project is to reduce and prevent water pollution in the Danube basin (River Sava) that is caused by wastewater from farms and slaughterhouses, nutrients, and protection chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, insecticides), which are used in agriculture. Implementation of the project has achieved following specific objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changed behaviour of pollution generators and increased awareness on consequences of water pollution and about possible solutions; - educated consumers about usage of potential water pollutants; - established basis for dialog between interested parties and strengthened participation of public in decision making in area of environment protection (counselling bodies for farmers, farmers, agriculture producers' associations, representatives of municipal environmental sectors, representatives of municipal agriculture sectors, representatives of governmental departments dealing with water

				<p>management, environmental NGOs) and facilitating of information flow...</p> <p>Results of the project are following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During project implementation, public awareness of the consumers was raised. 64 Memorandums of understanding, published 5 tv reports (4 RTRS, 1 VIKOM), 5 radio interviews (Uno-radio, Radio Gradiška, Radio Srpske, Radio Srbac x 2), at each radio station, news were broadcasted about beginning of project implementation (4) and, before each training, one day in advance, news/notices were broadcasted and participants were invited to the trainings at mentioned radio stations (4); and 9 news paper articles were published. - Four (4) trainings/round tables were held with above mentioned topics and 82 participants were educated. - Designed, published and distributed brochures/leaflets with reciprocal acknowledgement. - Signed Memorandums of Understanding purpose of pollution reduction stakeholders present at trainings/round 64 MoUs signed. <p>Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is in organization and conduction of constant education (trainings/round tables for target groups), discussions, promotional materials, brochures and collaboration with media. In that way, a great number of beneficiaries had opportunity to learn more and to get involved into discussion and solving process. It is necessary to constantly remind consumers through media and seminars about dangers from underground waters.</p>
2.	LO 14 634	5000	Cleaner production in food industry	<p>Goal of the project is to raise awareness of food industry representatives on impact of their activities on pollution of Danube river catchments areas.</p> <p>Implementation of the project has achieved following specific objectives :</p> <p>trained representatives of food industry on environmental and economic advantages of cleaner production implementation, as well as on benefits from implementation of best available techniques and environmental</p>

				<p>management systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - motivated representatives of local governments, chambers of commerce, NGOs, and media to participate in this project and continue activities on promotion of use of preventive methods. <p>Information about pollution of water by organic substances and nutrients from activities in food and beverage industry was disseminated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 meetings organized with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Srpska, Chamber of Commerce of Banja Luka Region and Government of Brcko District and Department of Public Affairs. - Brochure “Possibilities for Application of Cleaner Production Measures in the Food and Beverage Industry”, which has been prepared, printed and distributed. - 2 trainings held in Banja Luka and Bijeljina <p>DVD film on "Capacity building on cleaner production in BIH"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through various media <p>The level of awareness and responsibility toward environment in the regions of Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Doboje and wider is raised. Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is through promotion and application of cleaner production measures, while direct impact is reduction of the amount of nutrients from food and beverage industry from the Vrbas and Drina River basins, and the direct Sava River basin.</p>
3.	LO 14 636	7000	<p>Increasing public participation in reducing nitrification through education and informing women and youths on upper Drina River Region</p>	<p>Goal of the project is to inform and educate women and youth on the region of upper Drina, by strengthen awareness of direct consumers and improve access to information about sources and pollution reducing. Besides that, it is important to increase public participation by linking stakeholders and all sectors in reducing nitrification, because without cooperation between sectors it is impossible to make a progress in any field.</p> <p>Implementation of the project has achieved following specific objectives :</p>

				<p>Initiated and established Eco-sections in the scope of secondary schools in the towns of Visegrad, Foca, Rudo and Gorazde.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involved and linked authorized sectors and relevant interest groups from the region through the project. <p>Strengthened awareness and changed conduct of direct users through education and informing women and youth about the ways of influences in reducing pollution.</p> <p>Promoted principles of the Aarhus convention and using hygiene products without phosphor and other nutrients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted intensive media campaign through the local media. <p>Results of the project are following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepared and broadcasted promotional TV video and radio jingle, - Prepared and distributed educational-promotion leaflets - distributed to citizens in 4 towns - Prepared and broadcasted radio show program on Radio Visegrad - Prepared and broadcasted interview about planned activities and aims of this project by media agency SRNA, - Prepared and broadcasted 5 reports about the project by various local media, - Four (4) training /ecological education/ were held (for associations of women and entrepreneurs on region) in cities of Gorazde, Foca, Visegrad and Rudo, - Organized 2 workshops for representatives of all associations and partners, - Organized 8 promotional meetings in high schools, - Organized 4 performing trainings with members of eco-sections in all four cities. (in total 70 participants) <p>Indirect impact: Significant contribution to reducing nitrification was achieved by informing, educating direct buyers - consumers (women & youth) of hygienically products. Contribution is also achieved by initiating and establishing ecological</p>
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				sections in secondary centers in 4 towns.
4.	LO 14660	9.972 USD	Vrbas river littoral afforestation with the purpose of erosion prevention and water quality improvement	<p>Goal of the project proposal is improvement of ecological and chemical water status, and also overflow influence decreasing. This project had indirect contribution for decreasing of pollution sources by forestation of Vrbas` brinks, what will prevent erosion but also will improve water quality. Implementation of the project has achieved following specific objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct forestation of Vrbas` brinks and basin at Forestry economy "Banja Luka" in Republic of Srpska and "Forestry unit Jajce" in Federation of BiH - erosion prevention and prevention of sediments water pollution - improvement of water quality by bio-filtration, what affected in decreasing of nutrients and toxically matters which are present in waters of Vrbas river - cooperation with media representatives - cooperation with secondary school "Gimnazija" Banja Luka - cooperation with NGO representatives <p>Results of the projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afforested 2 ha of forest in Banja Luka (5000 seeding) - Afforested 1 ha of forest in Jajce (2500 seeding) - 7000 pamphlets printed and disseminated - 350 brochures printed and disseminated - Educated 40 pupils of secondary school "Gimnazija" Banja Luka - 2 radio emissions at "UNO" radio performed - Project is presented over internet pages of partner organizations - Improved cooperation with Forestry economy "Banja Luka" - Improved cooperation with Forestry unit "Jajce" - Improved cooperation with local population - Improved cooperation with different institutions: Faculty of Forestry Banja Luka, Holland organization GSN , Informative development centre, secondary school "Gimnazija" Banja Luka, NGO sector

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media coverage: printed media: promo materials disseminated to local population and to governmental and non governmental organizations, electronically media: over internet and 2 radio shows. <p>Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is through promotion of afforestation importance for local population, but also for different governmental and non governmental institutions. Promotion was performed over printed materials, radio shows and secondary school pupils' education. Direct impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is in afforestation of two target sites: in Banja Luka (F.U. "Crni vrh" section 75) where 2 ha have been afforested with black pine and in Jajce (F.U. "Sedinac" section 72) where 1 ha has been afforested with black pine, as well. It is important to add that this project in inter-entity project.</p>
5.	LO 14 639	13 400	Save the Spreca River (Sava River Basin)	<p>Goal of the project is to contribute to reduction of pollution sources by reducing the use of chemicals and promoting their adequate application, promoting alternative solutions in agriculture production in Sava basin and raising awareness on this issue. Implementation of the project has achieved following specific objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protected underground and surface waters in the area of river Spreča from toxic pollution caused by excessive use of chemicals in agriculture production, - raised awareness in primary agriculture producers, students and others on necessity to preserve river basin to include indicators of economically viable gradual transfer from conventional to ecological food production, - improved cooperation among interested parties, - transferred experineces among partner non-governmental organisations. <p>Achievements and outcomes of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In depth information of the project area obtained (wider area of municipalities Kalesija and Gračanica), setting up working group (Active participation of

				<p>the Agriculture Institute of Tuzla Canton and representatives of municipalities Gračanica and Kalesija in project implementation achieved).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaire form developed to be used in polling of agriculture producers - The survey conducted in the wider territory of Kalesija and Gračanica municipalities. In total 50 producers were interviewed (25 in Gračanica and 25 in Kalesija) and starting situation photographed. Result of the analysis was used in the framework of planned workshops. Interviewed agriculture producers were participants of workshops. - Working material for the workshops prepared (main issues: why it is important to protect river Spreča and problems of diffuse pollution caused by agriculture activities; How to treat pesticides and mineral fertilizers; Ecological production and agri-eco tourism; Biological products in agricultural production; Manuring/dressing and Lumbri humus) - Organized 4 workshops from farmers in Kalesija and Gračanica municipalities. - Organized training - education of agriculture producers in the area of river Spreča River was planned on the basis of needs and requests from farmers. - 500 copies of eco-booklet „Sačuvajmo život Spreče“ printed and distributed. - 2nd round of survey targeting agricultural producers was conducted - Questionnaire analysis has shown there were certain movements in relation to project start period. Examinees received more information which relate to use of chemical means for plant protection, package disposal, increased interest for alternative solutions and biological products has been recorded. <p>Media activities - The bearer of project activities related to media activities was the Foundation „Kameleon - otvorena mreža ljudskih prava i demokratije“ through radio station Kameleon. According to the action plan, Kameleon prepared the following: press release, i.e. radio announcement on</p>
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				<p>organization of public presentation in January 2006; design and broadcast of 2 radio jingles during the project life span; design and dissemination of billboards; design and dissemination of city lights; design and broadcast of radio shows.</p> <p>Main results of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved relation of target groups towards protection of river Spreča, - Proper application of chemical products in agriculture productions, - Increased interest in use of alternative solutions in agriculture practice, - Increased interest of agriculture producers for ecological production - Raising awareness on possibilities of agri-eco tourism and potential economic prosperity of eco-farm initiated. - ECO-booklet – 500 copies - Billboards 4 x 3 m – 9 billboards: 3 months * 3 locations - City lights - Radio shows and radio jingles <p>Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is through promotion of ecological production, biological products instead of chemical and promotion of their proper use. Direct impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is in educated agriculture producers on necessity to reduce chemical products and proper disposal of containers.</p> <p>This project was implemented by 2 NGOs and 1 media partner.</p>
6.	LO 14 665	7000	Let clean water flow – down the rivers Ukrina, Sava and Danube to the Black Sea	<p>This project is implementing by 2 NGOs, as partner.</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to engage the local community into the process of decision making concerning the pollution of the environment from several points of view, such as:</p> <p>1. The problem concerning the river Ukrina pollution by the Lignite Mine Stanari, which endangers the water area and the people who live downstream.</p> <p>Problem is in direct hazards for the health as a result of an unfinished rehabilitation of the localities of the mine including a reconstruction of the area and dumps of the mine.</p>

				<p>2. Low water levels during the summer, caused by the exploitation of the gravestones and through uncontrolled taking of the water out of the river for the two fishponds and it's returning into the river Ukrina with a nutritive and biological pollution.</p> <p>3. Lay down of the rubbish next to the riverbanks as well as into the river.</p> <p>4. Using of the pesticides on the agricultural fields</p> <p>Such polluted water influence on sources of drinking water. The polluting matters in the water –heavy metals, pesticides, nutrients etc. have a toxically influence for people, animals and plants, which is later transferred to future generations.</p> <p>Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TV-show „The protection and managing the Water of the Ukrina River“. (A dialog between the representatives of the local governments and NGOs and business sector, with the goal to inform wider public about protection and water management of the Ukrina River), - The manifestation „Danube Days“was organized, under the motto: „The Publicity should know and take part“, - Advertisement/competition of the literal and paint works, a leaflet was made and a press conference was organized, - Eco boards with ecological messages were made and placed through the area, - Rafting was organized at Ukrina River. 20 participants took part, as well as the representatives of the NGO, local government, media ... - Round table was organized about „The management quality of the water of Ukrina River“, - Reportage about the Ukrina River was emitted on the „K3“-TV, - Two press conferences held, - Cleaning actions of the bank of the Sava River organized by partner NGO Eko Brod in municipality of Bosanski Brod (town at the border
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				<p>with Croatia – on the Sava River),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The youth ecological action of cleaning the banks of Ukrina River, - Three education training were held (on the subject „Reduction of the pollution of the waters caused by the intensive agricultural production“). <p>Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is through strong media pressure to public to undertake the concrete steps and influence on people who make decisions to reduce a level of the pollution of the river Ukrina.</p> <p>Direct impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is in educated agriculture producers on necessity to reduce chemical products and pesticides in daily work.</p>
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REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.

Grants monitoring

After signing the award agreements (12th January 2006), the NGOs started with project implementation. From the beginning of projects implementation, REC BiH has been closely monitoring the

implementation of all activities in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant agreements. Three main monitoring tools have been applied:

- **Regular contact** with grantees by phone and e-mail in order to establish closer relationship and to see how the projects are implemented.
- Revision of the **progress narrative and financial reports**. Progress reports have been used as the opportunities to correct problems and to get NGOs on the right track. After submission and revision of the first report (after the 1st installment of 40% was spent), REC BiH contacted the NGOs, informing them about the quality of their reports, and asked for additional clarifications where those were needed.
- **On-site monitoring** encouraged constructive face-to-face communication with the NGOs. REC team set up the monitoring agenda and informed the grantees about the time and date of planned monitoring in their premises. The purpose of the site visit included confirmation of the following:
 - Information contained in the narrative and financial report is accurate.
 - Project activities are going as planned; and/or in the case of major problems or delays, the grantee is attempting to resolve such issues.
 - The grantees respect the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

On-site monitoring was also the opportunity for the REC to better understand the projects and obtain details not found in submitted reports.

Conclusion of the conducted on-site monitoring:

During grant program implementation, REC BiH conducted on-site monitoring by visiting all grantees in their premises in order to do financial control and regular monitoring and to ensure that all expenditures and project activities are properly handled.

REC staff was obliged to conduct one on-site monitoring of all awarded projects. In specific cases REC BiH conducted on – site monitoring more than 1 time during the project implementation.

NGOs were previously informed about the date of monitoring visit and documentation that should be prepared.

Dates of on-site monitoring:

Nr.	REC BiH grant no.	NGO	Date of on-site monitoring
1.	LO14665	NGO Ecological Society Ekologika from Derventa and partner NGO Forum Derventa	21 st June 2006
2.	LO14630	NGO “Local initiatives Development” Banja Luka	22 nd June 2006
3.	LO14660	NGO “Eco-logic” Banja Luka	23 rd June 2006
4.	LO14636	NGO “Mother and Childe” (environmental department)” Rudo	26 th June 2006
5.	LO14639	NGO “Development Association - NERDA”, Tuzla	19 th July 2006
6.	LO 14 634	NGO “Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development”, Sarajevo	25 th July 2006

During the on-site monitoring REC BiH assured that all activities implemented in NGO projects were progressing as stated in the project proposal. Supporting documentation existed, as well as photos of all undertaken activities. NGOs have good cooperation with local stakeholders and other partners included in the projects. Partners in the projects are participating in accordance with agreed methodology. Projects are following methodology and they were finished by the deadline stated in FPs. There was just one project that needed to be prolong, so REC BiH accepted its prolongation and helped NGO to finalized project and to

correctly report about implemented activities. Financial control showed that all original documents were corresponding to the copies submitted in the 1st NGOs progress report. Promotional materials of all awarded projects were done in accordance with the RECs rules and are available at the REC BiH Office in Sarajevo.

N/B: REC BiH submitted detailed narrative Trip Reports including financial on-site monitoring minutes – as additional document to HO PM Ms. Entela Pinguli by e-mail on 18th September 2006.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts of the DRP grants results in BiH

The DRP National Grants Program (second round) has provided financial support to six local NGOs projects in order to reinforce their participation and participation of other stakeholders in water management and pollution reduction.

- BiH NGOs were faced with specific issue of the nutrients reduction, so, based on their experience on mentioned issue, NGOs had possibility to work together with other relevant institutions/sectors in preparing and implementing project proposals. **E.g.** All awarded projects were very complex, so in that regard NGOs involved expert partners in preparing full project proposals. NGO NERDA involved NGO EkoPot for agricultural training session, radio Kameleon for media covering and PR. They also involved agricultural engineers for full proposal preparation (especial for the part for agricultural training curricula). NGO Eco-Logic involved Institute for forestry and forestry engineers etc.
- Some of the NGO activities have combined indirect and direct nutrient reduction activities, but the overall focus was on creating public awareness on various issues, indirectly reducing nutrients. **E.g.** In whole grant program (based on NGO reports) 28 environmental NGOs were involved (like leaders or partners), 25 representatives of various governmental sector: ministries, municipalities, city administration, institutes etc. and 41 print & electronic media were covering DRP small grants implementation.
- There are range of NGO activities planned that led to direct nutrient reduction. **E.g.** These activities range from the removal of illegal dumps close to waterways (5 actions) to the practical education on the field with farmers about controlled utilization of natural (organic) fertilizers.
 - o Educated agriculture producers on necessity to reduce chemical products and proper disposal of containers. (7 trainings held on this issue).
 - o Direct reduction of the amount of nutrients from food and beverage industry from the Vrbas and Drina River basins, and the direct Sava River basin. (Unfortunately, there are no statistical measures for this indicator, but based on project success we could state this).
 - o Informed and educated women and youth on the region of upper Drina, by strengthen awareness of direct consumers and improve access to information about sources and pollution reducing. (Four (4) training /ecological education/ were held (for associations of women and entrepreneurs on region) in cities of Gorazde, Foca, Visegrad and Rudo, 2 workshops organized for representatives of all associations and partners, 8 promotional meetings organized in high schools, 4 performing trainings organized with members of eco-sections in all four cities. (in total 70 participants).
 - o Strong media campaign on water protection and public participation. (41 various media were covering NGO's projects implementation).
 - o Direct forestation of two target sites: in Banja Luka (F.U. "Crni vrh" section 75) where 2 ha have been afforested with black pine, and in Jajce (F.U. "Sedinac" section 72) where 1 ha have been afforested with black pine.
- Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction is in organization and conduction of constant education (trainings/round tables for target groups), discussions, and dissemination of promotional materials, brochures and collaboration with media. In that way, a great number of

beneficiaries had opportunity to learn more and to get involved into discussion and solving process. **E. g.:**

- Reduction of diffuse pollution through promotion of ecological production, biological products instead of chemical and promotion of their proper use.
 - Reduction of nutrients and organic pollution through promotion and application of cleaner production measures.
 - Reduction of nutrients through trainings/round tables for target group, discussions, promotional materials, brochures and collaboration with media.
 - Nutrients reduction by increasing public participation by linking stakeholders and all sectors.
 - Nutrients reduction by engaging local community into the process of decision making concerning the pollution river Ukrina caused by Lignite Mine Stanari.
 - Nutrients and toxic materials reduction over promotion of forestation importance for local population but also for different governmental and non governmental institutions.
- Through cooperation with all interested stakeholders, awarded projects and NGOs experience (through its implementation) could serve as a platform for other similar programs of reduction of river's contaminations (from different pollutants). **E.g.:** This grant program linked all environmental stakeholders groups in nutrient reduction issues. (detailed info in paragraph: Type and Number of Stakeholders)
 - During the project implementation, NGOs and their project partners improved their knowledge/skills on nutrients reduction and lesson learned could offer to other interested colleagues.

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
1 national project contributed to agriculture discharges (introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters).	- Reduction of diffuse pollution through promotion of ecological production, biological products instead of chemical and promotion of their proper use	- Educated agriculture producers on necessity to reduce chemical products and proper disposal of containers	- Total 92 persons attended project workshops out of which: - 34 farmers - 5 interested parties: farmers and consumers, NGOs, municipal administration, students of High schools and wider public - 1 Eco-booklet - 1 information leaflet - 5 radio shows - 2 radio jingles - 9 billboards 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved cooperation and experience through project workshops of all involved parties ● Initiated establishment of the Forum for protection of river Spreča ● Project activities (Jan 2006 – Jan 2007) were covered by the radio station Kameleon through radio shows, radio jingles and announcements of workshops

			x 3 m	
2 national projects contributed to Industrial discharges (Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems; address toxic-substance pollution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of nutrients and organic pollution through promotion and application of cleaner production measures - Reduction of nutrients through trainings/round tables for target group, discussions, promotional materials, brochures and collaboration with media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct reduction of the amount of nutrients from food and beverage industry from the Vrbas and Drina River basins, and the direct Sava River basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 meetings were held with representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Government of the Brcko District - 15 informative leaflets about the project were printed and distributed - 2 one-day trainings were organized - 31 participant at trainings - 19 representatives from food and beverage industry were trained for application of pollution prevention methods - 4 media representatives were present at the trainings - 350 brochures were prepared and distributed - 60 DVD movies were prepared and distributed - 2 broadcastings in the media - 2 articles in the press - 82 farms - 10 stakeholders groups - 2 types of brochures, in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent cooperation was established with the Chamber of Commerce of RS and its regional chambers for Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Doboj regions • Partially satisfactory media coverage of the project activities • Collaboration with partners was at very high level, partners were involved in all phases of project implementation. • Consumers showed big interest. • Local authorities did not show enough interest. • Coverage by media was higher than planned. The following media was active and present at organised events: TV- RTRS, VIKOM; Radio-Uno-radio, Radio Gradiška, Radio Srpske, Radio Srbac; Novine- Focus, Blic, Glas Srpske, Večernje novine.

			total 600 copies, - 27 recorded media performances	
2 national projects contributed to Municipal discharges (Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents; address urban waste-water collection and treatment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutrients reduction by increasing public participation by linking stakeholders and all sectors - Nutrients reduction by engaging local community into the process of decision making concerning the pollution river Ukrina caused by Lignite Mine Stanari. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform and educate women and youth on the region of upper Drina, by strengthen awareness of direct consumers and improve access to information about sources and pollution reducing - Strong media campaign on water protection and public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 eco-sections in 4 high schools initiated and established, - 1 promotional TV video - 1 promotional radio jingle, - 1200 educational-promotion leaflets - distributed to citizens in 4 towns - 1 broadcasted radio show - 1 interview, - 5 reports about the project by various local media, - 4 training /ecological education/ in 4 towns, - 2 workshops held for representatives of all associations and partners, - 8 promotional meetings held in high schools, - 4 performing trainings with members of eco-sections in all four cities. (in total 70 participants) - 2 farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informed and educated women and youth association on the region of upper Drina, by strengthen awareness of direct consumers and improve access to information about sources and pollution reducing - Significant contribution to reducing nitrification was achieved by informing, educating direct buyers - consumers (women & youth) of hygienically products. - Contribution is also achieved by initiating and establishing ecological sections in secondary centers in 4 towns. - Cooperation with local stakeholder improved - Media interest raised on specific issue

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 TV-show „The protection and managing the Water of the Ukrina River“. (A dialog between the representatives of the local governments and NGOs and business sector, with the goal to inform wider public about protection and water management of the Ukrina River), - 1 manifestation „Danube Days“ - 2 press conferences - 10 Eco boards with ecological message, - 1 round table, - 1 study tour to Lignite Mining Stanari, - 1 Reportage about the Ukrina River, - 2 cleaning actions of the bank of the Sava River, - 3 youth ecological action of cleaning the banks of Ukrina River, - 3 education training - 7 promotional 	
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			materials packages	
1 national project contributed to Land-use and Wetlands (Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects).	Nutrients and toxic materials reduction over promotion of forestation importance for local population but also for different governmental and non governmental institutions.	Direct forestation of two target sites: in Banja Luka (F.U. "Crni vrh" section 75) where 2 ha have been afforested with black pine, and in Jajce (F.U. "Sedinac" section 72) where 1 ha have been afforested with black pine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 ha in Banja Luka have been afforested (5000 seeding) - 1 ha in Jajce have been afforested (2500 seeding) - Printed and disseminated 7000 pamphlets - Printed and disseminated 350 brochures - educated 40 members of ecological section - 2 live radio emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading cooperation with F.E. Banja Luka • Upgrading cooperation with F.U. Jajce • Upgrading cooperation with local population • Upgrading cooperation with different organizations: Faculty of Forestry Banja Luka, Holland's organization GSN, Informative-research centre Banja Luka, NGO sector organizations • Media coverage by printed media, electronically media: over internet, and 2 live radio emissions have been made

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

- Environmental NGOs: 28
- Governmental sector (ministries, municipalities, city administration, institutes etc.): 25
- Industry (brewery, factories for juice production, mining-industry, wood industry etc.): 8
- Schools (primary and secondary schools): 21
- Local production (farms, bee keepers etc.): 64
- Communal local enterprises: 9
- Media (print & electronic media): 41
- Graphic designer houses (including marketing & advertising agencies): 11
- Business sector (private business, chamber of commerce, forestry enterprises etc.) : 18
- Sport clubs (e.g. rafting, fisheries etc.): 1
- Faculties: 5
- Volunteers: 18
- Buyers & consumers
- Pupils/students
- Teachers/professors
- Housewives/households
- Farmers
- Experts/external consultants
- General Public

Tools

NGOs used the following tools in the projects:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination were done using the local media.
- Lobbying and campaigning were done during the meetings in local communities and reaching decision-makers or inviting them to take part in TV debates.
- Public participation was done by informing the public about their rights and rights on accurate and actual information, especially information related pollution in their close environment (caused by industry – accidents etc.) using the Law on free access to information.
- Environmental education and training was done by organizing intensive lectures or education training in primary or secondary schools or education of farmers, producers etc. Each NGO prepare educative materials for the purpose of education (materials were done by consultants/experts who were involved in the projects).
- Networking and partnerships was done by linking NGOs (and other stakeholders) directly in the project implementation, or linking stakeholders who have same interest or work at similar initiative/project.
- Research was done by conducting surveys or opinion polls on specific issues.

Media coverage:

NGOs mostly used local media (especially TV or radio stations) in promotion of projects' activities with the aim to achieve higher local public awareness of the environmental pressures, problems and conditions of the Danube basin with regard to nutrients and toxic pollution. NGOs disseminate the tip-sheets for journalist using news agencies and local reporters. All materials related to the media coverage of the NGO projects (e.g. copies from the newspapers, magazines, video material etc.) is available at REC BiH office. NGOs also used new media; such is Internet portals to announce press releases, invitations, advertisements, results of competitions, survey results etc.

This grant program was covered very well by local media. NGOs strengthen their capacities in effective communication by using mass media to raise awareness or to create support for participation in the project. REC BiH was always on their disposal regarding the information dissemination or helping them in their PR techniques.

SUCCESS STORIES

NGO	Development Association NERDA
Name of project	“Let’s Protect River Spreča”
Project goals	To contribute to reduction of pollution sources by reducing the use of chemicals and promoting their adequate application, promoting alternative solutions in agriculture production in Sava basin and raising awareness on this issue.
Project objectives	To contribute to realisation of the overall objective, this project should achieve the following specific objectives: to protect underground and surface water in Spreča basin from toxic pollutants caused by extreme use of chemicals in agriculture; to raise awareness in agriculture producers, students and others on necessity to preserve river basin including indicators of economic rentability of gradual transfer from transfer from conventional to ecological food production; to improve cooperation among interested parties; to exchange experiences among partners/NGOs and relevant institutions in the area. Main project activities include: organisation of 4 thematic workshops, preparation of radio shows and
Project activities	

	radio jingles, poll among agriculture producers and design, printing and distribution of billboards, citylights and an eco-booklet.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	Direct impact on nutrient reduction is through education and raising awareness of students and agriculture producers providing them with knowledge on proper use of chemicals in agriculture production and alternative solutions such as biological plant protection means.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	There are two project partners to NERDA Development Association: « EKOPOT » Association of Citizens for development, improvement and promotion of eco-agriculture, tourism and environment protection and Foundation « Radio Kameleon -open network for human rights and democracy» as media partner Other stakeholders are: Municipality of Kalesija, Municipality of Gračanica, Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water of Tuzla Canton, Ministry of spatial planning and environment protection of Tuzla Canton, Directorate for environment protection of TC, High School for Agriculture in Kalesija and Gračanica and Center for ecology and energy Tuzla
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 workshops organized and attended by high schools students, agriculture producers and representatives of local authorities and relevant public institutions - 5 radio shows, 1 treating in particular use of biological plant protection products - 2 radio jingles broadcast 3 times a day during the project - 9 advertising billboards - 6 city lights in visible locations - Training per request of agriculture producers in proper use of chemicals in agriculture production

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REC Country Office: **Bulgaria**

Amount of Grant Fund: **40,000 USD**

Amount Disbursed: **40,000 USD**

Number of NGOs supported: **7**

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

The Deadline for receiving Concept proposals under DRP National Grants II-nd round was 12 September, 2005. 15 Concept proposals were received in total, as one organization submitted 2 Concepts. Representatives from all 14 organizations which submitted Concept proposals were invited to write and submit a Full proposal and attended a training on Full proposals writing on 3 October, 2005 in Sofia. The deadline for submission of Full proposals was 15 November, 2005. 14 Full proposals were submitted within the deadline by 14 Bulgarian NGOs. Out of them 7 Full proposals received a positive evaluation by the Local Advisory Board members and signed a Grant Contract with REC for CEE CO Bulgaria. The LAB which participated in the Concepts and Full proposals evaluation consisted of 5 members: 1 NGO expert, 1 expert from academic institution, 2 experts from national authorities and was chaired by the Director of REC CO Bulgaria. The LAB's final evaluation meeting of the Full Proposals took place on 8 December, 2005. The Winners Meeting of the awarded Full proposals took place on 20 December, 2005 in Sofia. The grants implementation in Bulgaria started on 4 January, 2006 with the 1st grants transfer.

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1	DRP-NG-BG-II-04 Intereco-21 Federation, Sofia	5800	Cleaning of the Danube River Coastal Line from Industrial, Agricultural and Household Waste. Forestation with Poplar and Willow Trees.	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theoretical and practical seminars for separate waste collection and reasonable fertilizers and pesticides usage organized with attendance of the citizens (incl. farmers) of the town of Lom; - Cleaned section along Danube river in the town of Lom from waste and branches by volunteers; - Promotional materials for separate waste collection published and disseminated; - Poplar and willow trees planted along the river in order to mitigate erosion.

2	DRP-NG-BG-II-05 Euromodel Association, Sofia	5900	Reconstruction of Wet Lands Habitats in Orahovo and Mizia Municipalities	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 m² wet lands territory cleaned from high grass, reed, bulrush; - 20 roots of Water lilies are planted in the cleaned wet land area; - Promotional materials published and disseminated (with information about the project and the importance of the wet lands); - Organized meeting with the local community for awareness raising about the protection of wet lands and biodiversity.
3	DRP-NG-BG-II-09 World for Everyone Association, Silistra	5700	To Stop Danube River Nutrient Pollution	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 sections along Danube river measured by 4 indicators 10 times; - Organized seminar “Possibilities for water pollution decrease and implementation of natural agricultural practices and one seminar with business representatives; - Students participated in open lessons for monitoring and analysis of the taken samples of Danube river; - Developed 1 software product for prognosis modeling of the river pollution – dunav.silistra.eu; - Promotion: Monitoring of the nutrient pollution between Malak Preslavets and Silistra Report published in 100 copies in print and 100 copies in CD; Agricultural practices for reduction of nitrate water pollution brochure published in 500 copies, format A4; - Informational board with monitoring results put in front the municipality; - Monitoring report is proposed to be taken into consideration in the Danube Basin Management Plan Development.
4	DRP-NG-BG-II-10 Regional Initiative Association, Sofia	6200	Improvement of Danube River Environmental Status	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One-day meeting “How successfully to lobby for our cause” with municipal experts, NGOs and other stakeholders for discussion of methods and measures of society integration in water management, dissemination of information and interaction between authorities and society; - 1 web site developed – information about water status, biodiversity, wet lands, polluters, legislation; - Transboundary network of non-governmental organizations established; - Created database of pollutants from Bulgarian, Serbian and Romanian; - Developed report for the environmental status of Timok river; - Elaborated proposal for Program for public information and environmental education in line with the Aarhus convention; - Meetings with students from Bregovo schools for raising their awareness about rational use

				<p>and protection of drinking-water;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized children drawing competition “To protect our river”; - Promotional materials - 1000 pcs, A4 format of informational brochures published.
5	<p>DRP-NG-BG-II-11 Bulgaria in Europe Association, Vidin</p>	6300		<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established informational and educational centre in the town of Vidin -98A Tsar Simeon Veliki Str.; - Good Agricultural Practices Appliance Guidelines, A5 format, 24 pages, 1000 copies published and disseminated; - Children drawing competition organized – chosen project logo - Round tables in three schools in Vidin – What can I do to protect Danube river? - 100 t-shirts with logo produced and disseminated - 400 stickers printed and disseminated - 2-day seminar: Aarhus Convention principles implementation for environmental information provision and public awareness raising for protection of Danube river was organized and attended by 50 stakeholders - operational “green telephone” - +359 94 601 699 for signals about environmental status and for provision of fast environmental information -web site - www.bgeu.biz with sections about the project; eco-bulletin; environmental legislation, etc.
6	<p>DRP-NG-BG-II-12, European Environmental Festival Foundation, Sofia</p>	5000	<p>Organizing a Competition for Movies and Documentaries about Danube Basin Pollution</p>	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90 media products from 17 countries participated in the film competition; - Round Table entitled: “Decrease of Pollution, Flood Effects and Consequences in the Iskar Basin (a key tributary to the Danube River) and Improvement of Media and Public Awareness” organized; - 45 children participated in children drawing competition “Rivers and lakes – the clear eyes of Bulgaria”; - Planted 60 trees in Green Europe park in Dolna banya by the participants in the competition;
7	<p>DRP-NG-BG-II-13 Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation</p>	5100	<p>More Space for Rivers and Safety for People</p>	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Osam and Iskar river regions mapped; - Developed report on Assessment of Osam and Iskar rivers damage degree after the floods in 2005. Assessment of the possibilities for river ecosystems improvement and reduction of flood risks; - 2 work meeting with NGOs and academics for protection of river ecosystems and reduction of floods conducted; the project manager is chosen as representative of the NGOs in the High Experts Water Council to

				<p>the MoEW; the project manager was invited to the 6th session of the Danube river basin council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations to the parliament environment and water commission concerning the protection of river ecosystems and ensuring of adequate measures for floods prevention submitted; proposal for elaboration of Manual for definition of flooded areas along the rivers to The High Experts Water Council to the MoEW; participation in the Osam river Management plan meeting - discussed measures for improvement of the morphological status of the river development; recommendations to the Danube river Basin Council for preparation of Programme for reduction of the floods risks; Organized training for the influence of the hydromorphological actions on the river ecosystems and restoration possibilities with Basin Directorates experts; Sent letter with proposals concerning the elaboration of Measures for floods reduction programme to the Danube river basin council - accepted; - More space for rivers and security for people Brochure published, A4 format
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REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).

- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

Under the second round of National Grants implementation representatives of REC CO Bulgaria attended 3 projects sites out of 7.

1. Monitoring visit:

DRP-NG-BG-II-09 Project, Silistra, 26-28 February 2006. Monitoring of Possibilities for Water Pollution Decrease and Implementation of Natural Agricultural Practices Seminar, held on 27-28 February 2007.

Outcomes:

Stimulation of fertilizers application requirements by the farmers in the region; raised awareness about good agricultural practices, sources and access to information in regards to farms need and requests; the relation between the agricultural activities and water pollution, EU funds for agriculture; Natura 2000 site along Danube in Bulgaria.

2. Monitoring visit:

DRP-NG-BG-II-12 Project, Dolna Banya, 9-10 May 2006. Monitoring of Decrease of Pollution, Flood Effects and Consequences in the Iskar Basin (a key tributary to the Danube River) and Improvement of Media and Public Awareness Round table and Award s ceremony in the community centre of Dolna Banya.

Outcomes:

Public awareness raised as result of the high attendance during the days of the festival “Green wave 21 century”; establishment of tradition – second year for conducting the festival and international participation of recognized media; collaboration between the responsible authorities for floods prevention, monitoring, control discussed, new interesting methods presented by scientists from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, strengthening of the administrative capacity of local authorities, actualization of the present legislation discussed.

3. Monitoring visit:

DRP-NG-BG-II-11 Project, Vidin, 23 June 2006. Monitoring of the established Centre for Environmental Information and Education.

Outcomes:

The centre is functional (98A Tsar Simeon Veliki Str., 2nd floor); the chosen place is appropriate; staff is available; the target groups which will seek information were discussed and in this regards the information which will be provided to them.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

Taking into account the variety of negative factors Danube river status is faced, the awarded non-governmental organisations had the opportunity to choose where to stream their efforts for decrease of nutrient and toxic pollution.

One of the addressed topics by the grantees concern excessive pollution from agricultural fertilizers and manure. Meetings were held with farmers from Danube region and developed materials were disseminated – 100 stakeholders participated in meetings for environmental agricultural practices and 1500 hard copies of best agricultural practices materials distributed.

Floods as one of the biggest problems in recent years with social, economic and environmental impact was in the agenda of some projects. Floods occur as consequence of governmental decisions that led to deforestation and destruction of natural floodplains. One of the projects worked for restoration of wet land in area where lands were drained and turned into agricultural territories (Euromodel Association). The achievement of the implemented project is one wet land which will serve as a model and the established public-private partnership for future cooperation and projects preparation. As a result of European Environment Foundation project implementation institutions responsible for floods monitoring, control and prevention were gathered and discussed their joint actions. Space Research Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences made presentation for the use of satellite technologies for floods prognosis and assessment and received additional funding from the national budget. The film festival in Dolna Banya will continue to present media products with environmental context in its next edition in 2007 (climate change). Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) project can be considered as achievement as this

organisation successfully cooperates with institutions on high level like Danube River Basin Directorate, MoEW, Environment and Water Commission at the Parliament, etc. BBF made mapping of Osam River in relation with the damage degree after the floods in 2005 and made assessment of the possibilities for river ecosystems improvement and reduction of floods risk. The success story is that the institutions are working with BBF and are looking for their expert opinion and experience in elaboration of plans, programs and development of measures on regional and national level.

Awareness raising is used in all projects but in different forms (open lessons with school children, drawing competitions; seminars, round tables, meetings with stakeholders; web sites and work with media). Bulgaria in Europe Association project achieved long-lasting effect of the awareness raising approach – establishment of informational and educational centre in the town of Vidin.

Lobbying and campaigning, addressing transboundary pollution in Timok river is achieved by Regional Initiative Association. Heavy metals pollution from Serbian side, the lack of information of excessive concentrations, public participation in decision-making are the topics addressed by the project.

The overall impact of the grants is established public-private partnerships; better coordination between authorities for floods monitoring and prevention; restored wetland; addressed transboundary pollution; implementation of the Aarhus convention; decrease of the agricultural pollution; society informed and with raised awareness; contribution to water management plans, programs, measures, etc.

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
DRP-NG-BG-II-04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising and information dissemination • Lobbying and campaigning • Public participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting of poplar and willow trees for mitigation of river banks erosion (activated landslide and high level of water damaged the plantation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brochures on separate collection of household waste published and disseminated and training seminars for target stakeholders organized. - Developed public-private partnership for raising additional funding for project activities - Nr of volunteers attracted to participate in river banks cleaning and separate waste collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attractive and comprehensible informational materials - High quality of presentations of the problems with waste collection and biodiversity
DRP-NG-BG-II-05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public awareness raised about the protection of wet lands habitats, biodiversity and sustainable water management - Lobbying and campaign approach towards establishment of successful public-private partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -200 m² wet land cleaned -20 roots of Water lilies are planted - 2 schools and citizens from 2 municipalities participated in the public awareness raising/educational session and seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Established sustainable model for wet lands restoration - High interest from the society during the meetings - Comprehensive and attractive content of the produced informational materials - Follow-up projects submitted for establishment of eco-part and eco-trail – evidence for the successful cooperation with the

				municipalities and for the interest of development of the achieved results
DRP-NG-BG-II-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness raised; trainings organized; and pollution patterns of the citizens, industry, farmers influenced - Contribution to the regional policies development - Contribution to the monitoring system - Dissemination of relevant training materials and publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly monitoring of the water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 stakeholders participated in the GAP seminar; 24 business representatives took part in monitoring results announcement meeting; 35 students took part in the sample taking, analyses and report preparation - one monitoring report developed and proposed to be taken into consideration in Danube Basin Management Plan elaboration - one web site with pollution prognosis software product developed - Brochure for GAP practices published, A4 format, 2 pages ,500 copies; 100 DCs and on hard copy of the monitoring report; 1 informational board put in front of the municipality - four sections along Danube river for the period of 10 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality monitoring of the 4 sections along the river made by students under the supervision of specialist - High quality of the content of the GAP brochure, monitoring results report on CD and hard copy
DRP-NG-BG-II-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressed transboundary problems regarding water pollution - Contribution to the development of regional and national policies - involvement of the society in the decision-making process - Promote and assist the application of the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Program for public information and environmental education developed - 1 web site developed with information about water status, biodiversity, wet lands, polluters, legislation - pollution sources data base created from BG, SER and RO - No of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Program for information and environmental education - High quality of the web site content and number of visitors - Continuation and expanding the NGO network - Environmentally consistent consumer behaviour of the Bregovo youth and adults as result of the awareness raising campaign

	<p>Aarhus Convention; Improved awareness of the public in the region for access to environmental information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint transboundary action - Environmental education. 		<p>from Bregovo with raised awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1000 copies, A4 format of informational brochure published - 20 drawings received for the children drawing competition “To protect our river” - established NGO network with participants from BG, SER and RO 	
DRP-NG-BG-II-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated public access to environmental information - Youth awareness raised; Farmers awareness raised; environmental education - Contribution to the Aarhus convention and WFD implementation - Change in the consumer behaviour 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established an informational and educational centre and number of visits to it - Operational project web site and No of visits to it - Number of calls to the “green phone” - 50 stakeholders attended the seminar; 3 schools participated in students round tables - 1000 pcs, A5 format GAP manuals published and disseminated - 100 pcs of t-shirts with the project logo; 400 pcs of promotional stickers produced and disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality of the proposed information to the visitors of the info centre, web site and the green phone
DRP-NG-BG-II-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing transboundary, national and international environmental problems; - Informational and educational impact, awareness raising; - Key stakeholders collaboration in the context of floods risks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 movie competition organized - 90 media products from 17 countries participated in the competition - 45 children sent drawings for the children drawing competition - 1 round table organized with 60 stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High attendance of the festival days by different age groups with different backgrounds - Wide media coverage of the award ceremony - High quality of the media products participating in the festival - High level officials and experts participating in the round table

	prevention, monitoring and control.			
DRP-NG-BG-II-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance for integrated water management and floods prevention strategic documents elaboration; - Public awareness raising and public participation; - Implementation of the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of the floodplains ecosystems status, possibilities for restoration of the river wet lands and old beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals regarding Floods risk decrease in the region plan (elaborated by the grantee and partners) are taken into consideration by Danube region basin directorate - Developed one report on Assessment of Osam and Iskar rivers damage degree after the floods in 2005. Assessment of the possibilities for river ecosystems improvement and reduction of flood risks - More space for rivers and security for people brochure published, A4 format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High assessment of the work done within the project by the state institutions. Constant collaboration with the project manager at different levels – national, regional, basin directorates (the project manager is chosen as representative of the NGO sector in front of High experts water council to MoEW; Participation in the DRBD meetings and presentation of the project) - Information gathered within the project is useful for and accepted in the institutions management plans, programmes and water management strategies elaboration.

Media coverage

All the projects within the second round of DRP, National grants used as tool for raising the public awareness, for dissemination of information about project activities and results local, regional and national printed or electronic media. Media presented during the meetings, seminars, trainings and press conferences. Media was the main partner for dissemination of information to the local society mainly and to the wider range of audiences as well.

Information about the projects and project outcomes was available on projects web sites and on REC CO web site.

The project managers fully implemented the envisaged activities stipulated in their submitted and approved full proposals. Differences between the envisaged and achieved results come from circumstances out of their power – weather conditions mainly (later implementation of activities), terrain characteristics (smaller territories cleaned or observed).

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.
- Lobbying and campaigning.
- Public participation.
- Environmental education and training.
- Networking and partnerships.
- Interactive case projects.

- Monitoring.
- Research.
- Other?

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-04

Topic and subtopics: Agriculture discharges

Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).

Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via development of brochures on separate collection of household waste and organization of training seminars for target stakeholders.
- Lobbying and campaigning: via development of local public-private partnerships for raising additional funding for project activities
- Public participation: attracting of volunteers for local activities
- Environmental education and training: via conducting of educational seminars
- Networking and partnerships: via contacts with local community and young people in the target Danube municipalities.
- Monitoring: performed by the grant recipient NGO and local institutions
- Research: for additional project funding for ensuring viability of project results after the project end.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-05

Topic and subtopics: Land-use and Wetlands

Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).

Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via development of information materials about the importance of wetlands for regional development processes; conducting of seminars; developing viable public-private partnership towards the creation and management of nature park *Water lilies*.
- Lobbying and campaigning: via development of local public-private partnerships for new projects development and raising additional funding for project activities
- Public participation: attracting of volunteers for local activities
- Environmental education and training: via conducting of educational seminars
- Networking and partnerships: via contacts with local community and young people in the target Danube municipalities for the creation of nature park and eco paths.
- Monitoring: performed by the grant recipient NGO and local institutions
- Research: for additional project funding for ensuring viability of project results after the project end.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-09

Topic and subtopics: Agriculture discharges

Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.

Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).

Industrial discharges

Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.

Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.

Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.

Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via publishing information for the organic pollution of the Danube river in the municipalities of Silistra, Sitovo and Glavinitsa.
- Environmental education and training: training of students, farmers, NGOs, representatives of local institutions on sustainable use of organic manure in the agricultural activities in the region.
- Monitoring: performed by the grant recipient NGO and local institutions: monthly monitoring of organic substances in the Danube river.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-10

Topic and subtopics: Industrial discharges

Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.

Land-use and Wetlands

Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via publishing of a brochure for school children focusing on protection of the Danube river;
- Environmental education and training: via conducting of school campaigns, including open lessons and site visits.
- Networking and partnerships: establishing good working relationships with Danube River Basin Directorate and Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Montana.
- Monitoring: of water polluting enterprises in North Western Bulgaria
- Research: on the vegetation variety along the Timok river.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-11

Topic and subtopics: Agriculture discharges

Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via development and dissemination of project promotional materials (e.g. T-shirts, stickers, etc.)
- Public participation: involving local media, NGOs and institutions in project activities
- Environmental education and training: via conducting of educational seminars and providing consultancy to citizens.
- Networking and partnerships: developing partnerships with Vidin municipality and District Governor towards the establishment of a public information center on environmental issues in the city of Vidin.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-12

Topic and subtopics: Land-use and Wetlands

Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.

Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via conducting 2 press-conferences; three-day movie festival; publication of an information catalogue about the participant movies; conducting of a round table on the topic of floods management and prevention and dissemination of a CD with round table materials; short movie production about the festival activities;
- Public participation: involving the local community of Dolna Banya municipality in the Green Festival preparation and conducting
- Environmental education and training: via conducting a children drawing competition, which attracted over 40 school children from Dolna Banya public schools.
- Networking and partnerships: via establishing good working relationships with the municipal governments of 6 municipalities in Sofia district in the area of environmental education; participating in regional and international networks for environmental movies and documentaries production.
- Interactive case studies: organization of environmental movies festival and combining it with a round table discussion on floods management and prevention.

Project DRP-NG-BG-II-13

Topic and subtopics: Land-use and Wetlands

Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Tools used:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media: via development of information materials for institutions and citizens regarding possible flood prevention measures that need to be implemented in Bulgaria; development of a presentation on project activities and its delivery in front of the Basin Council of the Danube River Basin Directorate on 29 June, 2006 on the occasion of the Danube Day; participation in radio talk shows.
- Lobbying and campaigning: via organization of working meetings with stakeholders and participation in national consultative committees on crisis management.
- Public participation: development of motivated proposals for floods management and prevention to be included in governmental strategies and plans
- Environmental education and training: via preparation of a presentation on protection of river ecosystems and flood risk reduction.
- Networking and partnerships: via participation in different meetings and working groups on flood prevention and management.
- Monitoring: over the state of river ecosystems in North Bulgaria
- Research: on the domestic and international experience in restoration of river and floodplain ecosystems.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	To Stop Danube River Nutrient Pollution
Project goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and decrease of the nutrient pollution (with phosphor and nitrate compounds) in the selected section of the river through public awareness raising - Initiation of sustainable production and use of organic materials by society - Database collection and development of Danube River Management Plan
Description of its impact on direct or indirect	- Public awareness raised; trainings organized; and pollution patterns of the citizens, industry, farmers influenced

nutrient reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution to the regional policies development - Contribution to the monitoring system - Dissemination of relevant training materials and publications - Monthly monitoring of the water
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Silistra Municipality; Municipal Agricultural Advice Service; Danube Region Basin Directorate; Kliment Ohridski School in Silistra; Eco Club “Pelican” Silistra; farmers in the region; representatives of the industry; local and national NGOs.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 sections along Danube river measured by 4 indicators 10 times; - Organized seminar “Possibilities for water pollution decrease and implementation of natural agricultural practices and one seminar with business representatives; - Students participated in open lessons for monitoring and analysis of the taken samples of Danube river; - Developed 1 software product for prognosis modeling of the river pollution – dunav.silistra.eu; - Promotion: Monitoring of the nutrient pollution between Malak Preslavets and Silistra Report published in 100 copies in print and 100 copies in CD; Agricultural practices for reduction of nitrate water pollution brochure published in 500 copies, format A4; - Informational board with monitoring results put in front the municipality; - Monitoring report is proposed to be taken into consideration in the Danube Basin Management Plan Development.

Project Title	Establishment of Informational and Educational Centre in the Town of Vidin
Project goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easily accessible ecological information through the information and educational centre; - Improvement of the awareness and knowledge of the stakeholders and stimulating of the public decision-making process; - Stimulating usage of the alternative agricultural methods that are environmental friendly, which will be prevent and reduce the pollution of the Danube River; - Creating of new collaborating forms / the system of public information, “sailing” seminar, “round table”/ between local authorities NGOs, public, business and agricultural grower.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated public access to environmental information - Youth awareness raised; Farmers awareness raised; environmental education - Contribution to the Aarhus convention and WFD implementation - Change in the consumer behaviour

Range and involvement of stakeholders	Municipality of Vidin, RIEW Montana, 3 schools, local NGOs, 37 farms and farmers cooperations
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informational and educational centre established; - Good Agricultural Practices Implementation Manual published in A5 format and in 1000 pcs.; - Children drawing competition - chosen logo of the project; - Promotional materials: 100 t-shirts with the project logo; 400 promotional stickers produced and disseminated; - <i>What can I do for Danube river protection</i> Round tables in 3 schools in Vidin; - Two-day Seminar “Aarhus Convention Implementation and Raising of Public Awareness for Protection of Danube river” organized; - Operational “green telephone” for signals and information provision +359 94 601 699; - Functional project web site –ww.bgeu.biz;

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE FINAL REPORT

REC Country Office: CROATIA

Amount of Grant Fund: 50.000,00 USD

Amount Disbursed: 48.865,00 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 4

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

REC CO Croatia announced the Call for NGO Project Proposals on August 2005. Through the whole project proposals preparation process, responsible REC CO Grant Manager was providing continuous assistance to NGOs involved. Up to the deadline on September 12, 2005 REC CO Croatia received 6 concept papers. When conformity checking was done, the list of eligible applications was prepared. Evaluation of the project proposals was structured as a two-stage process. Within the first phase, 6 project concepts were evaluated by REC CO. As a result, one project concept was rejected for the incompleteness of application documentation submitted.

5 concept papers were approved for the following phase, entering in that way to the preparation of the full project proposals stage. Deadline for submission of full and finalized project proposals was December 12, 2005. In a meantime, REC Croatia (in coordination with a REC HQ) organized one day training for the applicants preparing full project proposals. Training was organized in order to improve applicant's knowledge and skills, not only for the quality project preparation, but also for the project implementation and management. Training was structured in three thematic parts, according to the donor guidelines and specific needs of selected applicants: 1. Developing Logical Framework, 2. Project and Finance Management, and 3. Media training. All 5 previously registered project concepts, were received on time by REC CO as a full project proposals and all of them were fulfilling all necessary administrative requirements.

Evaluation panel was nominated, consisting of REC Croatia Local Advisory Board - LAB members, representatives of Danube Environmental Forum - DEF and International Committee for the Protection of Danube River - ICPDR for Croatia. They were also coupled with representatives of REC CO Croatia:

- Mladen Borša, ICPDR representative nominated by the ICPDR Head of Delegation for Croatia Mr. Željko Ostojić, Croatian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water Management
- Irma Popović, DEF representative for Croatia, "Green Action" Zagreb
- Sandra Balent, UNDP Country Office Croatia, Zagreb
- Sandra Oskoruš, NGO "ZAMIR" Zagreb
- Milan Medić, NGO "PCAP Int." Karlovac
- Anita Pokrovac Patekar; Croatian Ministry for Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction - Directorate for Inspection, Zagreb
- Tarzan Legović; Scientific Institute "Rudjer Bosković", Zagreb
- Goran Romac; Croatian Center for Cleaner Production, Zagreb

- Darko Stilinović, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, Zagreb
- Dalia Matijević, REC Croatia responsible Grant Manager; REC Country Office Zagreb
- Sunčica Kopjarević Jurić, REC Croatia Finance Manager, REC Country Office Zagreb

Members of the evaluation panel were provided in advance with the background information, as well as with all relevant materials and project proposals documentation. Individually, they scored each application using the same Evaluation form prepared by REC. Results of their scoring were collected, compiled and presented at the evaluation meeting.

The evaluation panel meeting was held on December 22, 2005 in REC CO Croatia office. Evaluators discussed project proposals and presented their opinion on strengths and weaknesses of each project proposal. They agreed to award (almost) all project proposals submitted. This is not fully applicable for the project proposals # DRP-II-01-05 and # DRP-II-06-05. Applicants of both proposals were asked to join these two projects in one functional unit, since they were proposing similar actions in the same town, structured in a similar manner. Since both of the project proposals were evaluated as not fully satisfactory, evaluation panel proposed joining of two projects in one, in order to create at least one good project which will be implemented in area of Slavonski Brod.

Also, all other project applicants were asked to finalize their project proposals according to the specific guidelines agreed and provided by the board members and specifically related to the particular project proposals. Guidelines were strongly taking into account overall program scope and objectives. Applicants were asked to make further improvements of their project proposals in a way to be more specific in anticipating possible project influence, to gain more measurable project results, to think in a more concrete and practical way when developing project indicators, to develop activities which are more focused toward overall project objective - reducing nutrients and toxins in Danube river basin.

REC CO Croatia responsible grant manager took the responsibility for the integration of all additional adjustments and improvements done within particular project proposals according to the given guidelines, before signing Award Agreements between REC Croatia and awardees. Applicants were obliged to submit complete documentation of project proposals finalized according to the guidelines by January 12, 2006. After receiving project proposals which were finalized according to the evaluation panel guidelines, final decisions on financial support amounts were provided.

Information

PROJECTS (LIST OF AWARDED DRP II GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded USD	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1	DRP II 01-05	11.950	"Through the Cooperation - to the Cleaner River Sava"	Public environmental awareness raising, initiating public participation and involvement in environmental decision-making, networking/mobilizing stakeholders in relation to the problems of discharging untreated waste waters from Slavonski Brod in river Sava and implementing environmentally inappropriate communal solutions in Slavonski Brod.
2	DRP II 02-05	15.000	"Informing Public on Benefits Related to the Industrial Waste Water Treatment Technologies Implementation - Ecological and Economic Effects"	Education of the public, promoting best available techniques, providing professional support for the selected industry representatives within the process of choosing most appropriate waste water treatment solutions, providing professional support within process of developing the industrial ecology approach through the lectures, round tables, exhibitions, information exchange and distribution,

				publishing.
3	DRP II 03-05	11.970	"Promoting Methods of Eco and Organic Agriculture - 2 nd phase"	Public awareness raising, raising interest for the implementation of sustainable agriculture methodologies, raising knowledge through practical experience exchange, promoting the concept of eco-organic agriculture, through lectures and practical workshops organized for rural inhabitants and agriculturists, conducting study tours and thematic public campaign, providing practical education program for school population, publishing and distribution.
4	DRP II 05-05	9.945	"Let's Learn About Amphibians - The First Ones on the Frontline"	Lectures and workshops organized for local population in Danube area. Promoting program activities for protection of amphibians, promoting cooperation with responsible state institutions, organizing and conducting monitoring activities through involvement of students and local community representatives (volunteers), conducting seminar on implementation of "Road Call Count" method, conducting field remediation activities on selected "hot spots".

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grant monitoring

Grants were monitored mainly through participation of the REC CO Croatia responsible grant manager or other REC CO Croatia staff to the particular project events organized by Danube 2nd round grantees within the projects implementation process.

Within framework of the project DRP II 01-05 one workshop was organized by the beginning of July 2006, as well as one educational media event in April 2006. Both events were organized for different stakeholders and were attended by significant number of invitees (including REC grants manager), gaining serious public attention. Also, the NGO representative was continuously asked by REC CO grants manager if any support and help is needed, due to the relevant lack of their previous experience. He was also informing REC CO grant manager about the latest project developments. They sounded secure and satisfying with project implementation and results they are gaining.

Within framework of the project DRP II 02-05 few workshops/lectures were organized and conducted (details can be read in a following table), attended by REC CO grant manager. Project activities gained a lot of public interest and support, especially among Croatian industry representatives and members of academic/technical society in Croatia.

Within framework of the project DRP II 03-05 numerous lectures and workshops were organized and conducted. Also significant public media interest was gained. REC CO grant manager participated two workshops in February/March 2006.

Within framework of the project DRP II 05-05 few public events were organized gaining significant popularity and interest among public and media. Project leader was continuously informing REC CO about the project developments and implementation process details.

PROJECTS IMPLAMANTATION STATUS

No	Award No	Amount awarded USD	NGO information	Project title	Environmental Topic	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION Status Report
1	DRP II 01-05	11.950	Brod Eco-association "Zemlja" (Earth); Slavonski Brod	"Through the Cooperation - to the Cleaner River Sava"	Industrial and municipal discharges	Mr. Tomislav Lukić was appointed as a project leader since the previously registered one Ms. Karmela Fontana Pudić was not available due to the maternity leave. Project progress report was submitted on September 1st, 2006. Project was publicly presented within Environmental Protection Day when press conference was organized. Also, project questionnaire was distributed to citizens of Slavonski Brod, and data were gathered and analyzed. On June 08, TV show "Pressing" presented the project in local community. All relevant point pollution sources were defined in Brod-Posavina County and monitoring areas defined. Small river Mrsunja was chosen as a control pilot site, since this area is not included in regular Croatian Waters work focus. Mrsunja river passes through protected landscape and ornithological reserve, although pig-farm Lužani discharges waste waters in it. Dynamic water specimen collection system was developed and implemented and preconditions for continuous monitoring system establishment were defined. On July 05, project workshop

						<p>was conducted, participated by 25 stakeholder representatives from Slavonski Brod, Zupanja and Bosanski Brod. Issues especially discussed were the process of EU Water Framework Directive implementation and harmonization with national legislative system, needs to develop the project of building a waste water facility for the Town of Slavonski Brod, discussing role, goals, activities and expected results of work and engagements of the International Commission for the Sava river. Final project report was submitted on February 28, 2007. Although it seemed that project is implemented in an appropriate manner, and NGO never emphasized any potential problem related to the project or financial management of the project, final report was poor and insufficient, lacking clear indicators, stakeholder involvement interpretation and appropriate justification of finance spent. Only 75% of finances spent were appropriately supported and justified. NGO was asked to submit final report according to the detailed guidelines provided by REC CO grants manager, but NGO representative Mr. Lukić refused it and no any additional information came from NGO's side. NGO was informed that no further financial support by REC can be provided until appropriate explanation and financial justification is given. Last 10% grant installment was not paid to the NGO.</p>
2	DRP II 02-05	15.000	Club of Food Technologists , Biotechnologists and Nutritionists, Zagreb	"Informing Public on Benefits Related to the Industrial Waste Water Treatment Technologies Implementation - Ecological and Economic Effects"	Industrial discharges	<p>Final project report was submitted on February 15, 2007. Project was structured in a concise, precise and complete manner illustrating project implemented in a fully satisfying manner. Financial justification was complete and relevant, supported by full financial documentation. 5 professional lectures were organized and conducted within project framework. Lectures covered problem frameworks of IPPC implementation in national context, implementing improved waste waters technologies with practical experiences related discussion, interpretation of ecological and economic consequences. Croatian industry representatives were strongly involved in the project, highly interested and motivated to share knowledge and experience and to gain</p>

						<p>new improved knowledge. Moreover, implementation of the project led to following results: IPPC implementation requirements are strongly anticipated by the Croatian industry representatives, facility analysis and technological modification are considered as necessary, pollution prevention, measures are anticipated for implementation, environmental benefits are clearly defined especially in relation to the economic benefits, energy efficiency, pollution and emission prevention was documented in several concrete cases. Huge interest was gained through the project implementation primarily among food industry and communal company representatives. NGO received numeral calls for cooperation and invitation to conduct lectures and on-site analysis.</p>
3	DRP II 03-05	11.970	Europe House Vukovar, Vukovar	"Promoting Methods of Eco and Organic Agriculture - 2nd phase"	Agricultural discharges	<p>Progress report was submitted on April 27, 2006 and approved by responsible REC CO grant manager. Final project report was submitted on February 02, 2007. It was structured in a fully concise and relevant manner, taking into account narrative and financial reports, so approved for the project finalization. Project results envisaged and accomplished are: environmental awareness raised among agricultural producers and consumers, better access to information is developed in Ilok, Tovarnik and Vukovar region, willingness of certain number of agricultural producers to use more environmentally sound practices and methods, consumers are motivated to use eco-agricultural products, school children and teachers are willing to cooperate within eco-agricultural activities. Also, 800 leaflets were distributed with 350 thematic brochures to lectures attendees, 27 lectures were organized, together with 15 workshops for agriculturists, efficient continuous cooperation was established with 5 primary schools and 1 secondary eco-school in Ilok. Good cooperation with local media established (6 radio programs, 2 TV reportages, and articles in news papers. Project activities implemented are: 1. Initial questionnaire distributed and collected in Ilok, Šarengrad, Bapska, Tovarnik and Ilača, and project publicly presented and introduced, 2. 4 types of posters were</p>

						<p>created, 3. 3 types of leaflets were created and distributed, 4. study tour visit to eco-fair in Osijek conducted, 5. lectures/workshops conducted: Ecological cattle breeding + introduction to eco agriculture principles + Workshop on eco sheep breeding in February 2006; Use of Californian earth-worms in eco agriculture in February 2006; Soil preparation for eco production of vegetables + eco plant production + Workshop: How to create high garden-bed in March 2006; Bio production and protection of fruits + organic production in eco agriculture and viticulture, Workshop: Compost production in March 2006. Problems in project implementation were mainly related to the low interest among local people, which is even more enhanced by the loss of continuous state incentives.</p>
4	DRP II 05-05	9.945	"HYLA" Society for the Protection and Research of Amphibians and Reptiles, Zagreb	"Let's Learn about Amphibians - The First Ones on the Frontline"	Land-use and Wetlands	<p>All lectures planned within project framework were prepared and conducted during the project period in Nature Park Kopački rit. Questionnaires were offered to participants during the first and the last lecture in order to test level of knowledge. Field trips which were initially planned, all of them were conducted, data are gathered and analyzed. Results of Road Count Method defined four black spots so far where remediation will be done during autumn 2007. Two locations where amphibians with deformities were spotted will be also continuously monitored in the forthcoming period. Equipment was purchased and sound recording was conducted continuously. Finalized audio material is available. Project is highly appreciated and accepted in public, but stronger involvement of public media is still needed, as well is implementation of a team building activities among volunteers which were involved in the project. Full project report was submitted in February 28, 2007, supported by the appropriately structures narrative and financial report of the project implementation.</p>

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

All projects implementers were expressing relative satisfaction related to the process of project implementation and progress, although few expected and/or unexpected obstacles appeared in almost all cases of project implementation due to the several reasons among which are pig-plague epidemic in Eastern Slavonia, relatively low level agricultural seasonal production, low level of satisfactory of local people with political status in the Counties where projects were implemented. All project implementers express high level of interest and motivation of local people to implement environmentally sound methods and knowledge, and to anticipate implementation of the sustainable development principles within their local circumstances.

Results of the projects implemented within DRP as i.e. relative reduction of nutrients/toxics discharged quantities by promoting organic agriculture and changes initiated in people's behaviour and attitude, raising knowledge of space and resources users, strengthening local community, public involvement and participation in environmental decision making, raising public awareness related to the wise use of chemicals in agriculture and soil-use related activities are only a part of the intensive process occurring in the Danube area of Croatia as a result of the EU accession process. DRP project was from a start well positioned within framework of local needs and interests, as it is strongly visible in this moment within environmentally sound agriculture initiatives and concerns. This issue is a strongly prioritized now, gaining significant public support, gathering different stakeholders (food industry, manure producers, agricultural producers and farmers, agricultural products consumers) together to deal with environmental issues as a result of a serious and consistent public pressure. The issue is favourable among school population and teachers, sensitive from the public media standpoint and economically interesting.

Same is applicable towards the issue of direct reduction nutrients which is measurable through the intensive implementation of alternative technologies for waste waters treatment within few industrial facilities for food processing and sugar production. Results of significantly decreased fresh water consumption within particular industrial processes, technological and hazardous waste quantities are decreased to some extent, better results are achieved for industrial wastewater content laboratory tests. All of those still need to be analyzed and appropriately interpreted within Danube regional context in order to have solid basis for claiming improved status of Danube environment. Danube project undoubtedly enforced the urgent need strongly to take into account environmental concerns and mobilized the public towards fulfilment of the civil rights to live in healthy environment and regularly to practice sustainable development principles. Significant improvement is obvious towards raised quality of cooperation among stakeholders and food industry professionals, towards better environmental information flow system, towards creating numerous environmentally sound initiatives within industrial sector, towards ecological and economic concerns raised within industrial sector related to the sustainable resource use and waste management.

Similar is applicable for the issue of raising public knowledge and sensitivity towards amphibians (and/or other indicative, endangered and sensitive species) and their environmental significance. Public awareness is strongly improved towards the issue of the need to preserve/conservate floodplains and wetlands. Local communities in Danube area are expressing higher level of concern and sensitivity towards nature resources use and management, since it is acknowledged lately as a EU relevant and economically valuable. Also, significant level of voluntarism is occurring in parallel, NGOs are gaining stronger public appreciation and multistakeholder approach is starting to become precondition in reaching best environmental and economic scenarios and solutions.

Still, relatively weak input and involvement from particular local communities and their political leaders and decision makers in the region can be used as an excuse for the weak prioritization of environmental and sustainable development issues, since Danube region in Croatia is economically relatively poor and lots of financial and organizational effort still has to be invested in order to reach full understanding and social consensus towards complete fulfilment of DRP objectives.

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Agriculture discharges, introducing /applying BAP,	Reducing nutrients/toxics discharged quantities by	Direct reducing of the amount of nutrients measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800 project leaflets • 350 Role-books for eco- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of interest and motivation of local agriculturists to implement eco

<p>and promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development. was addressed by the project DRP II 03-05</p>	<p>promoting organic agriculture, changing people's behaviour and attitude, raising knowledge of users of space and resources, strengthening local community, public involvement and participation in environmental decision making, raising public awareness related to the wise use of chemicals in agriculture and soil-use related activities</p>	<p>through bigger number of local agricultural products labelled as eco-products, significantly bigger number of eco products consumers.</p>	<p>agriculture distributed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 lectures conducted for totally 320 participants • 15 workshops conducted for local agriculturists - totally 220 participants • cooperation established with 5 primary and 1 secondary school • 6 radio shows, 2 TV broadcasts, several articles published • 4 kinds of posters designed, totally 300 distributed • 26 questionnaires filled by consumers of eco - agricultural food and other products 	<p>sustainable agriculture principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of interest and motivation of consumers of eco products to consume more expensive but also higher level quality products • Outreach of PR materials (distribution) • Media coverage • Interest and motivation in local schools to implement certain project activities and to make them continuous • agricultural image of the County raised and local communities anticipated by the general public as modern and environmentally prosperous
<p>Industrial discharges, promoting best available technology, introducing environmental management systems, assisting in reducing risk of accidental release of pollutants from communal and industrial facilities, addressing (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices leading to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances was addressed by</p>	<p>Reducing nutrients/toxics discharged quantities by changing people's behaviour and attitude, raising knowledge, stakeholders networking and active involvement, taking over the responsibility for the environmental damage, establishing continuous cooperation and information flow among stakeholders and towards public media, harmonizing professional</p>	<p>Direct reducing of the amount of nutrients is measurable through the implementation of alternative technologies for waste waters treatment within 4 industrial facilities for food processing and sugar production, fresh water consumption decreased within industrial processes, technological and hazardous waste quantities decreased, better results of the industrial waster water content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two lectures conducted related to the IPPC principles implementation, and one additional lecture related to the implementation of new technologies, taking the example of Sugar industry in Osijek. • Total number of participants, representatives of Croatian industries, mainly food processing, is 65. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of cooperation among stakeholders and food industry professionals • quality of information flow system established • quality of environmentally sound initiatives in industrial sector • high level of ecological and economic concerns raised within industrial sector related to the sustainable resource use and waste management

<p>the projects DRP II 01-05 and DRP II 02-05</p>	<p>attitude towards waste waters treatment issue, reducing costs of the resources used/consumed for industrial processes, creating clear picture about the future pollution tendencies and how they can be tackled efficiently and competently</p>	<p>laboratory tests.</p>		
<p>Municipal discharges, urban waste-water collection and treatment were addressed by the project DRP II 01-05.</p>	<p>Reducing nutrients/toxics discharged quantities by changing people's behaviour and attitude, raising knowledge, strengthening local community and public involvement in environmental decision making, raising public awareness related to the significance of the protection of natural resources, stakeholders networking and active involvement, understanding the concept of taking responsibility for the environmental damage, establishing continuous cooperation and information flow between public media, environmental NGOs, local authorities and communal companies, harmonizing public attitude</p>	<p>results of the quantitative analytical tests conducted according to the project activity plan, results of the questionnaire filled by representatives of local community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one media presentation - press conference, • questionnaire filled by local inhabitants - referent specimen of 160 citizens, • one thematic TV broadcast, • point-pollution spots and monitoring area defined in Brod-Posavina County, • one thematic workshop conducted for 25 participants for Slavonski Brod, Zupanja and Bosanski Brod in BiH, • sampling water in 4 spots in order to create model of pollution monitoring, chemical and biological analysis of water samples conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of public awareness and knowledge raised • high level quality and intensity of cooperation among stakeholders • intensive information flow towards public media • attitude significantly changed and improved within public media sector towards environmental issues

	towards waste waters treatment issue			
The subjects of land-use and protecting the natural floodplains (buffer strips), as well as supporting conservation of wetland habitat was addressed by the project DRP II 05-05.	Public knowledge, sensitivity towards amphibian environmental significance and general awareness raised, environmental status defined due to the intensive monitoring activities conducted, raised level/status of biodiversity	results of the questionnaire filled by representatives of local community, significantly raised number of local volunteers involved in monitoring activities means better space covering and presence, black-spots recuperated and revitalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three multimedia lectures conducted in a cooperation with NP "Kopacki Rit" for totally 30 participants, • 17 volunteers tested and skilled, volunteers divided in 7 working groups and charged with appropriate number of transects. • Volunteers covered so far 50% of transects planned by the project action plan. • Three media presentations of the project were conducted including one additional press conference. • 6 media broadcasts were released related to the project implementation. • One lecture conducted in school for pupils of secondary school in Beli Manastir. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level of public knowledge an awareness raised within project framework in project area • public awareness improved towards the issue of floodplains and wetlands protection and conservation • local community mobilized in relation to the nature resource use and management • significant level of voluntarism occurred locally • NGOs image improved among local people • multistakeholder platform for cooperation established

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

DRP II 01-05 public media x 5, local environmental NGOs x 20, general public (cca 8.000 inhabitants of Slavonski Brod and nearest surroundings)

DRP II 02-05 representatives of industrial sector, particularly representatives of food industry x 30 pax, public companies in charge for water management x 20 pax, national authorities in charge for water management x 20 pax, environmental NGOs x 25 pax.

DRP II 03-05 local rural population x 50 pax, agricultural producers x 20 pax, agricultural consumers x 100 pax , local school population x 60 pax.

DRP II 05-05 local stakeholders as pupils x 100 pax, students x 50 pax, scouts x 30 pax, fishermen x 30 pax, local authorities x 20 pax, public authorities in charge for maintaining roads, streets and highways x 10 pax

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media was used within almost all projects, and it represents one of the most often used methods. Majority of project implemented in Croatia within DRP are structured in a shape of awareness-raising, project issue presentation/promotion and information dissemination activities.
- Lobbying and campaigning was used as a methodology in project DRP II 01-05 (mobilizing and networking local community within waste water management most appropriate solution finding), DRP II 02-05 (mobilizing and networking food industry representatives, connecting those with public media and educational institutions), DRP II 03-05 (mobilizing local agriculturists to anticipate sustainable development principles and consumers of eco-products) and DRP II 05-05 (lobbying for sustainable natural resource use and management)
- Public participation (involving public in different aspects of environmental decision making within DRP II 01-05 and DRP II 02-05).
- Environmental education and training (DRP II 02-05, DRP II 03-05, DRP II 05-05).
- Networking and partnerships (DRP II 01-05, DRP II 02-05, DRP II 05-05).
- Interactive case projects (DRP II 05-05).
- Monitoring (DRP II 01-05, DRP II 02-05, DRP II 05-05).
- Research (DRP II 01-05, DRP II 05-05).

Media coverage:

DRP II 01-05 press conference and project presentation within Day of the Environment Protection, TV broadcast project presentation on local TV Slavonski Brod., numerous articles in local and regional press-publications

DRP II 02-05 Lectures were announced and invitation for participation was distributed widely through all public media available. Thematic texts were published in Vjesnik and on Alert web site.

DRP II 03-05 Radio Vukovar, Radio Vinkovci and Radio Osijek were promoted project and particular project activities; local news papers announced and discussed the project context

DRP II 05-05 Osijek local radio station and local newspapers announced the project and presented the project to the general public. Also Večernji list asked for the interview, and the short show was prepared for the RTL television "Eksploziv". Project web site was creates as a sub site on www.hyla.hr/web/web. All volunteers received symbolic project awards as T-shirts and posters.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	"Promoting Methods of Eco and Organic Agriculture - 2nd phase"
Project goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. eco awareness raising related to the influence of agriculture as a one of the most serious polluters, but also as a possible crucial element/carrier for sustainable development in the region 2. promoting public interest for implementation of sustainable agricultural practice and methods 3. raising knowledge of local population related to benefits of organic agriculture principles implemented for society and individuals 4. providing technical support to agricultural producers in ecological food production 5. defining existing problems in sector and finding solutions 6. defining and interpretation of economic benefits of eco agricultural production
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	Project involved significant number of local inhabitants, producers and consumers of eco agricultural products, or those who are interested to know and learn more about sustainable development and agriculture principles implementation. Also, local (regional) community is mobilized towards accepting sustainable agriculture methods and principles in order to create appropriate market acceptable image of the Eastern Croatian counties as agricultural Danube areas as one of the crucial

	agricultural and food production European resource.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Involvement of qualitatively and quantitatively wide range of stakeholders ensures project results long-term sustainability. Project is also successful for the reason of overlapping the project scope with national agricultural tendencies streaming towards European common agricultural framework.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<p>Reducing nutrients/toxics discharged quantities by promoting organic agriculture, changing people's behaviour and attitude, raising knowledge of space and resources users, strengthening local community organizational capacity, public involvement and participation in environmental decision making, raising public awareness related to the wise use of chemicals in agriculture and soil-use related activities.</p> <p>Direct reducing of the amount of nutrients measurable through bigger number of local agricultural products labelled as eco-products, significantly bigger number of eco products consumers. 27 lectures were conducted for totally 320 participants.</p> <p>15 workshops were conducted for local agriculturists, for totally 220 participants. Also, viable cooperation was established among NGO sector representatives in the region, and schools (5 primary schools and 1 secondary school were involved). All project activities were appropriately and intensively covered by public media and presentation materials (6 radio shows, 2 TV broadcasts, several articles published, 4 kinds of posters designed and 300 of them distributed). Significant interest and motivation among local agriculturists and consumers of eco agricultural products is obvious due to the continuous project activities implementation and promotion of eco sustainable agriculture principles in a popular, appealing and highly professional way. Few local schools acting within project area expressed firm interest and motivation to implement certain selected project activities and to make them continuous practice within framework of their out-door program activities implemented. Also, it has to be emphasized, that agricultural image of the County is significantly improved and local communities in the region are strongly anticipated recently by the general public in Croatia as economically prosperous and strongly anticipating environmental concerns in strategic planning activities.</p>

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY FINAL REPORT

REC Country Office: Czech Republic

Amount of Grant Fund: 40.000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 40.000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 5

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

The Call of National Grant of Danube Regional Project - 2nd Round was announced in April 2006. Deadline of concept papers stage was in September 30, 2006 and full project proposals stage deadline was in December 14, 2006.

The Call was published in special issue of REC Bulletin Czech Republic, which was distributed directly to 250 NGOs via by mail. E-mail announcement was sent to e-mail addresses of REC CO mailing list of NGOs. Internet web pages was used as other way of announcement, partly the Call was published in REC CO web pages (www.reccr.cz) partly on server focusing on grants information for NGOs (<http://granty.ecn.cz/>). The Call was published one and half month before the deadline.

Country office Czech Republic **received 5 concept papers** in total; all projects were accepted for the evaluation process.

The deadline for submission of final report of all awarded projects was June 31, 2007.

Evaluation procedure:

Concept papers stage

The evaluators of concept papers received copies of concept papers, including scoring sheets, 2 weeks before the evaluation meeting took place.

They provided the CO with their evaluation of the project applications in written form in advance (in the form of scoring sheet).

The evaluation meeting for concept papers stage was held in REC Country office in Prague in October 20, 2006. The project concept papers were evaluated by following participants of the meeting:

Jaroslav Ungerma (representative of DEF) and REC Country office representative Tomas Kazmierski (Project manager).

Based on the average score (regarding the evaluation scores given by each evaluators), each project was individually discussed, starting with the project with the highest average score. Projects were reviewed based on criteria set ahead that were publicized together with the Program announcement.

The NGOs were trained in full project proposal preparation including logical framework workshop. The training was held in REC CO in October 27, 2006 and was led by Tomas Kazmierski, REC project manager. Representatives of all organizations submitting concept papers attended the training.

Full proposal stage

The Local Advisory Board (LAB) members received copies of full project proposals, including scoring sheets, 1 week before the evaluation meeting took place.

All members of the LAB provided the CO with their evaluation of the project applications in written form via by e-mail (in the form of scoring sheet).

Based on the average score (regarding the evaluation scores given by each LAB member), each project was individually discussed. Projects were reviewed based on criteria set ahead that were publicized together with the DRP National Grants Program - 2nd Round announcement.

Summary of the evaluation proceeding:

- Number of submitted applications: **5**
- Number of unaccepted applications: **0**
- Number of evaluated applications: **5**
- Awarded projects: **5**
- Sum distributed (in total): **40.000 USD**

The winners meeting was held in REC CO in January 31, 2006. The Grant Agreements with all grantees were signed in February 2006.

The deadline for final project reports for all grantees was June 30, 2006. Because of delay of several organisation (REC CR received the last report at June 27 afer our warnings and demands) narrative report was prepared at the end of July 2006.

The deadline for final project reports for all grantees was January 31, 2007.

Information

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded (in USD)	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1	D0601	9.300	„Meadow society - nutrient indicators in river basin“	<p>By developing a methodology to monitor nutrients on an area basis, the project contributes to a system of effective financial tools belonging to a common policy formed by the Ministries of Agriculture and of the Environment, including regulation of the nutrients inflow. Enhancing awareness of the impact that the increased nutrients level has on the ecosystems in the river basin, and of the conditions of the meadow plant stands, the project also motivates the farmers as well as government officials to support and to take a maximum advantage of agrotechnical processes that are neutral in relation to the level of nutrients in the landscape.</p> <p>The main project results would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology to monitor nutrients in landscape on an area basis – an article in a specialized journal An information booklet on the impact that the increased level of nutrients has on the river basin ecosystems – a publication. Informative discussions with the farmers Presentations of the methodology and its contribution to preparation of agro-environmental programmes (AEP) – a computer presentations in PDF Information website dealing with the impact that the increased level of nutrients has on the river basin ecosystems, including the project products to download.
2	D0602	7.499	„STOP for Phosphates - clean water not only in South Moravia region“	<p>The project aims at a reduction of nutrients, especially phosphorus, in tributaries of the river of Morava, more precisely in the upper part of Olšava river:</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> production of a leaflet “How to choose the right washing powder” (promotion of phosphate-free detergents) distribution of the information among citizens living in the region of upper Olšava

				<p>summarizing workshop for water resources managers, local government officials, the media as well as the public</p> <p>production of a leaflet "How to choose the right washing powder" (promotion of phosphate-free detergents)</p> <p>wide information campaign (including the region around the spa town of Luhačovice)</p> <p>involvement of the local government and the professional public (water resources managers) in transferring information on phosphate-free detergents</p>
3	D0603	8.000	„Convention for Danube protection and toxic pollution in rivers in the Czech Republic“	<p>In 1998, the Danube Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River (here-in-after called The Convention) became effective in the Czech Republic. Within the territory of the Czech Republic, heavy metals, halogenated organic compounds and pesticides have proven to be problematic. Within the project, we will be warning about this problem through an educational campaign. In order to achieve this goal, we will use an internet website, we will prepare a manual for working with the data concerning air, water and soil pollution, and we will also organise a competition for the best brief annual environmental report so as the data are accessible in concrete towns and places (for NGOs, schools, ...). We will also prepare and distribute an exhibition concerning the issues, accompanied by lectures and independent monitoring which will enable us to point out concrete pollution cases. We will summarise implementation of the Convention in a short study, too.</p> <p>The internet website – concerning the protection of Danube and chemical substances, a CD manual providing information on the environmental data sources, specifying the methodology to compile the brief environmental annual report, competition for the best report, exhibition on toxic substances, lectures for the public, results of an independent monitoring, media campaign and the study on fulfilment of the Convention.</p>
4	D0604	7.701	Moravian Carst - model site of protected ground and underground carstic waters in Danube basin	<p>By promoting methods of considerate karst agriculture and a business plan carefully prepared by a selected agricultural company in the Moravian Karst (a model locality), the project gains other stakeholders in the Moravian Karst to use these methods and therefore it</p>

				<p>contributes to pollution control of surface waters and karst groundwater in a Europe's unique karst area (i.e. Ramsar wetland of Podzemní Punkva and The Moravian Karst as a part of NATURA 2000, the network of European most significant localities). The project also tries to enlist stakeholders from the other karst areas in the Danube basin as well as creators of national policies and strategies to use the methods of careful karst agriculture.</p> <p>Main activities: Media campaign Web sites International workshop System of excursions to the model locality of considerate karst agriculture</p>
5	D0605	7.500	Organic agriculture for water protection - instructional presentation and its use for Moravia river basin	<p>The project focuses on prevention and reduction of area pollution and on promotion and encouragement of ecological agriculture in the Morava basin as ecological agriculture has proven to cause substantially less pollution to the environmental media, including water, as opposed to the industrial (conventional) agriculture. Professionals working in the area of ecological agriculture (The Bio-Institute, Pro-Bio Association of Eco-Farmers, Department of Ecology and the Environment at the Palacký University in Olomouc) are going to work hard on further extension of ecological agriculture, especially onto arable land in the production areas of the Morava river basin.</p> <p>The target group includes farmers (both conventional and eco-farmers) and their professional associations (unions and their information centres, advisors in ecological agriculture, the Agrarian Chamber, regional information centres), officials from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>The project aims at involving NGOs in promotion of a careful arable land management which contributes to reduction of area pollution sources and to pollution prevention through enhancing public awareness in the Morava basin and active co-operation with the target group. Within the project, the following tools will be produced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training tools – power-point presentations focusing on spreading general information on area pollution sources, on their prevention and reduction by means of ecological agriculture, and on the plans for environment-friendly

				<p>management (the farm management plan). This includes preparation and work-out of the plan in a concrete agricultural company located within the spring area of the river Morava – i.e. Agrisen, Ltd.</p> <p>2. Short films and animations that will complement the PPT presentations with examples of environment-friendly technologies and practical procedures used in ecological agriculture.</p> <p>3. Giving presentations and training the users.</p>
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REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

During first period of implementation of granted project REC Czech Republic carried out monitoring at NGO named Renesance krajiny (Renesance of Country Association) which is implementing project “Moravian Carst - model site of protected ground and underground carstic waters in Danube basin”. The monitoring trip was realized in June 22 before the organisation was submitted its narrative report. Mr. Kazmierski (REC CR) met with Mr. Janco, leader of the project and they discussed about the successes and problems of implementation of the project. Timing and schedule of the project was kept and there was no important problems to solve it. REC CR advised how to prepare the narrative report and how to collect all needed documents for financial part of the report. The final result of the monitoring visit of REC CR was that the project was implemented well and the organisation met all objectives mentioned in project proposal.

Other monitoring visits were realized in following dates and organisations:

19.12.2006 - Bioinstitut Olomouc

23.10.2006 - Veronica Hostetín

23.10.2006 - Renesance Blansko

31.10.2006 – Arnika Praha

The purpose of the visits was to find out the process and real status of implementation in the visited organisation and to make an audit of project activities and accounting of the grant.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

No	Award No	Amount awarded (in USD)	NGO information	Project title	Environmental Topic	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION Status Report
1	D0601	9.300	Daphne ČR – Institute of Applied Ecology	„Meadow society - nutrient indicators in river basin“	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat. 	The project is implemented well but with time delay because of waiting for vegetation needed for monitoring works in field. It had influenced the narrative report submission, the report was submitted 27. 7. 2006 (instead of deadline at the end of June).
2	D0602	7.499	ZO ČSOP Veronica	„STOP for Phosphates - clean water not only in South Moravia region“	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents. 	The project is strongly influenced by unexpected political decision (from February 2006) that phosphate detergents are forbidden in market distribution from July 1, 2006 and in use from October 1, 2006. The project was mostly focused on information dissemination and promotion of phosphate-free detergents and now the objective is adjusted to the decision of Ministry of Environment. The project will deal with monitoring how the phosphate detergents restriction will influence a water quality and cleanness. The organisation was asked for additional information to the narrative report

						concerning promotion activities.
3	D0603	8.000	Arnika	„Convention for Danube protection and toxic pollution in rivers in the Czech Republic“	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies). • Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents. 	The leading organisation mentioned in its narrative report that the main problem which they had was co-operation with local partners with arrangements of competition for schoolchildren and they had to organise the competition themselves. This change is not so important for achieving the project goals, other planned activities was done well and without problems (in time and quality).
4	D0604	7.701	Renesance krajiny (Renesance of Country Association)	Moravian Carst - model site of protected ground and underground carstic waters in Danube basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters. • Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development. • Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat. 	The project is implementing very well and there was no problem in its first period. The project was audited by REC CR in June. The organisation mentioned that activities was interesting for media (TV, bradcasting,..), but only when they offered any “action”, if they informed media about preparatory work without real work in field (meetings with farmers, workshop, etc.) the media was not so participated and interested in.

5	D0605	7.500	Bioinstitute, o.p.s. Olomouc	Organic agriculture for water protection - instructional presentation and its use for Moravia river basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies). • Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development. • Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat. 	The project is implemented by proposed schedule, all activities was done in time and there is no problems during the 1st period of the implementation.
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ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Three of national projects contributing to the support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat	Promotion of suitable farming management in river basin.	Reducing nutrients in farming and management processes in river basins – practices for farmers and tool for responsible authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment • 15 farmers • 13 other stakeholders • 4 information printed materials • 3 special web pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close co-operation with farmers and local municipalities • TV and other media co-operation • National outreach – distribution to other regions with similar problems in the Czech Republic
One of national projects contributing to	Information campaign and direct meetings	Reducing nutrients use in farming in basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected landscape area authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media co-operation (local TV) • Close co-operation with

the application of best agricultural practices	with farmers and other local stakeholders.	area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 local farmers • 5 local municipalities • Workshop for farmers • Web page • 2 printed materials (leaflets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Action Group and preparation of follow up projects • Case study for other regions
One of national projects contributing to the promotion of phosphate-free detergents	Raising awareness on phosphate-free detergents use by general public (at local level)	Impact in river basin by phosphate-free detergents use in Bojkovsko region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web pages • 1 information leaflet • Consultancy for local people • 3 local municipalities and 1 regional association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of information through local media • Local municipalities co-operation • Ministry of Environment participation
Two of national projects contributing to promotion of eco-farming methods	Raising awareness on nutrients in water and best practices in eco-farming management	Use the best practices in eco-farming by local farmers avoiding nutrients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 farmers • 3 presentations in electronic form • 3 printed information leaflets • 2 Web pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • university participation • farmers association and local municipalities participation

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

- Ministry for Environment and Agriculture - 2
- Local communities / municipalities, protected area authorities- at least 30.
- Local Agriculture policy makers - 5.
- Water facility companies - 2
- Local farmers - 30
- NGOs - 19.
- General public (especially schools children) - 3500
- Schools – 25
- Media – 8
- Universities - 2

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.
- Lobbying and campaigning.
- Public participation.

- Environmental education and training.
- Networking and partnerships.
- Monitoring.
- Research.

The tools are mostly mentioned in brief description of each of the projects in first table.

Media coverage:

The projects are presented at local or regional level through information leaflets, publications and press releases. Some of the projects co-operate with TV and broadcasting media on promotion of project activities. Dissemination of leaflets is done by NGOs themselves in co-operation with regional and local municipalities, farmers associations and protected areas authorities, as well as ministries if possible.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Moravian Carst - model site of protected ground and underground karstic waters in Danube basin
Project goals	Best environmental practices use in farming in Karstic area in Danube basin
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	By promoting methods of considerate karst agriculture and a business plan carefully prepared by a selected agricultural company in the Moravian Karst (a model locality), the project gains other stakeholders in the Moravian Karst to use these methods and therefore it contributes to pollution control of surface waters and karst groundwater in a Europe's unique karst area (i.e. Ramsar wetland of Podzemní Punkva and The Moravian Karst as a part of NATURA 2000, the network of European most significant localities). The project also tries to enlist stakeholders from the other karst areas in the Danube basin as well as creators of national policies and strategies to use the methods of careful karst agriculture.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Farmers Local municipalities Local action groups Agriculture policy makers
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	Media campaign – cooperation with local and regional printed media and TV Web sites – for farmers especially 1 - international workshop - presentation of the environmental practices in farm management in protected areas 10 meetings with farmers and to make up a system of excursions to the model locality of considerate karst agriculture

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REC Country Office: HUNGARY

Amount of Grant Fund: 50,000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 50,000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: _____11_____

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

REC CO Hungary announced the Call at the beginning of September 2005.

Concept paper phase:

The deadline for sending concept papers was September 30 2005 and 31 concept papers arrived in electronic format. Two external and one internal experts evaluated the project drafts and invited 18 to the second round. The experts were:

- Nyvelt Erik – project and communication manager, trainer - Independent Ecological Centre
- Varnagy David – activist, expert - DEF Danube Environmental Forum
- Perneckzy Laszlo – project manager - REC Country Office Hungary

Full proposal phase:

18 concept papers were selected for the next phase – preparation of full project proposals. Deadline for submission of full project proposals was November 30, 2005.

15 invited NGOs submitted a detailed proposal, since one withdrawn and two missed the deadline.

For the second round two additional water-management experts were invited to strengthen the Advisory Board:

- Csobod Eva – director - REC Country Office Hungary
- Fonyo Gyorgy – university teacher and researcher - Budapest Technical University, Water Science and Environmental Technology Department
- Karolyi Judit – researcher, Hungarian Water Museum and Documentation Library
- Tamás Eniko – leading expert -DEF Danube Environmental Forum
- Perneckzy Laszlo – project manager - REC Country Office Hungary

The Advisory Board finally selected 11 proposals. The selection process was based on detailed narrative evaluation instead of scoring. The decision about the final beneficiaries was not difficult since almost all of the LAB members were supported the same proposals.

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
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1	23	4651	Access to the data of the Danube monitoring system - INFO chain portal	Meetings were organised with different experts from the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA) and InfoLanc provider in order to place Danube monitoring data in easy to understand version to the Infolanc website; Reflex participated in the conference called "The Danube monitoring is 10 years old" organized by MTA; Reflex organized 2 seminars to share data and information and encourage joint work among stakeholders
2	20	4186	Union for the part of Danube crossing the Esztergom micro-region	After the 2005 hazardous sewage water leak from the nearby Dorog ONYX Incinerator, a strong environmental coalition started in Esztergom. This alliance seeks to assess the water quality of the Danube and other small rivers in the Esztergom micro region, detect and register all pollution sources, develop potential solutions. During this project EKA organised 8 forums informing public and citizens about the effects and causes of construction and operation of a cement factory in the area. The forums were held in March and April. Because of this, on the referendum 5 settlements refused the building of the factory. 1 NGO meeting was held before the forums for preparation and 1 after for follow-up. EKA participated in the Civil Agreement Forum and prepared a statement about water protection. They lobby at a Hungarian member of the European Parliament for water protection. Water quality monitoring was carried out for the micro-region and result was published on the internet. Press releases were issued.
3	29	5581	Reduction of pesticide use and pollution prevention)	The Chemical Re-action and Safe Households Chemicals campaign was successful in 2005. The project continued these activities by demonstrating possibilities of chemical-use reduction for farmers. CAWG conduct a survey about the habit of using pesticide and organised 2 forums for farmers with the help of local green NGOs to inform farmers about sustainable agriculture, effects of pesticide use and alternatives. They have organized an NGO training also. They have issued 1 publication about the use of pesticide in a nature friendly way and a website about bug killer, insect repellent use in the home.
4	12	4651	Szódrákos brook program 2nd phase	The project is part of the long-term Szodrakos-creek rehabilitation programme which seeks to achieve sustainable water and land management in the water catchment area in the spirit of the EU Water Framework Directive. The association monitored the water quality at the lakes of Veresegyhaza. 8 lakes were monitored, statements were prepared and the results were published on the "KekLanc" website. "Pamut" lake rehabilitation has been done, reintroduced native flora and fauna. Continuation of the management of the "Ivaci" - wetland. Organised a meeting about the process of rehabilitation works for the Association of fishing with the participation of 80 people.
5	13	4651	Clearing action of Ipoly and environmentally friendly technology demonstration	The 2nd phase of the program continued the ongoing work of cleaning the Ipoly valley. The project detected the illegal waste dumps, mapped and reported these to the responsible municipalities, and conducted cleaning actions. Between June 15 and 18 the foundation held the cleaning action of Ipoly river with 20 participants. They have organised Electronic and hazardous waste collection days in 11 settlements. The first result of the identification of pollution sources has published on the internet.
6	07	3255	Chemical free buffer zone along the Által-ér	Center for Environmental Studies (CES) acted as intermediary between the local interest groups, decision makers and planners. CES collected the already existing data about pollutants and sources on Által-ér. With its partners it organized actions to eliminate illegal waste dumps. And to reach the ultimate aim of the project (to a start local actions towards chemicals free bio-agriculture in order to decrease pollution of Által-ér, the most polluted river of Hungary) it organized trainings for farmers.
7	28	5581	Systematization of the tasks for pollution and	This comprehensive small regional project at Sajo-Hernad region was to foster integrated planning by creating a forum for the stakeholders (including forestry, agriculture, flood and catastrophe prevention,

			flood prevention -- Sajó and Hernád rivers	etc.) and by creating a model site in order to demonstrate the necessity and the positive results of such approach. Accurate identification of the position of surface water bodies, land use and land cover was made. Data from different sources has been gathered (authorities, local governments, National Park, land owners, public) Problem cadastre for averages (floods, pollutions etc.) has been made for advice simple and logical solutions in such cases. A forum was organised but the some important stakeholders did not participate. Pilot project has been started for practical demonstration.
8	03	4651	Clean River Drava!	The activists of the Alliance, involving pupils and other interested civils as well, identified the main pollution sources and waste dumps of the Drava region. The smaller dumps were eliminated by the Alliance itself, and some bigger with the help of the national park directorate. Connected to these activities they disseminated awareness raising brochures and some later checking showed that the dumps were not reborn (of course the time scale is short). Using the collected data they made up a database with maps (ArcView). These will be available on the organization's website as well. A joint proposal with a Croatian partner (PHARE) is submitted for continuing the activities on both side of the river.
9	19	3720	"Water is the foundation of our life" -- interactive exhibition and lessons	Pisztrang Kor made a moving interactive exhibition about Danube, its values and the importance of protecting it. The material, presented on one hand the water itself and the rich flora and fauna of the Danube on the other The impressive exhibition held in 6 towns for students and children but it has reached other age groups too.
10	08	5581	The rehabilitation of the floodplain meadows of Nyáros Island	The project reconstructed the wetland meadows on a small Danube island (Nyáros-sziget). The main event was the camp in November when the association with the help of around 50 volunteers were cleaning up a 10ha meadow. Cleaning means - rehabilitation of the original flora - in this context, giving back the grass the function of filtering.
11	32	3488	The preparation of 2 major water management plan of NDP	FoE Hungary jointly with Nimfea Association has been monitoring 3 large projects financed by EU on water management. 2 Forums were organized one in October about the Vasarhelyi Plan for all stakeholders and one about the sustainable development of the Central Hungarian Lowlands Area for NGOs.

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges (1)

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges (2)

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges (3)

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands (4)

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

24 May, 2006 Clean Air Working Group (CAWG) organized in cooperation with local NGOs (Nimfea Nature protection association and Hajduboszormeny Environmental Circle) 2 forums for farmers of the main agricultural area of Hungary, the Great Plain. REC COH participated in the one organized in Hajduboszormeny. The forum was a 1-day event and around 20 farmers participated. On the forum the following topics were presented: Environmental and health effects of pesticides, EU regulation of pesticides, alternative agricultural methods (eco, sustainable). Discussion followed the presentations. The forum was successful and it appeared in the local media too.

15 September, 2006 Participation of the waste treatment awareness raising event including press conference and waste collection action, organized by the Reflex, - build personal contact with project manager and team members. The following topics were discussed: [1] State of illegal waste dumps in Hungary and especially in the surrounding of Gyor, [2] Pollution of the illegal dumps cause in the soil and water especially at Raba which is in the water catchments' area of Danube, [3] How Reflex is raising awareness of the issue. They work in close cooperation with the local waste management company, the local media and schools.

23 November, 2006 The Pisztrang Kor Association organized several exhibitions in different towns in Hungary. the exhibition was showing the flora and fauna of Danube focusing on the Szigetkoz. the exhibition targeted pupils of primary schools (age of between 6 and 14 years) but children from kindergarten were welcomed too. The exhibition consists of a short film introducing Szigetkoz. It followed by a game to recognize birds' sounds and games of puzzle and using microscope. One of the staff painted the pictures for the games. All games' purpose was that the children get familiar with the flora and fauna of Danube.

In some cases the results of the organised actions and events were displayed on the website of the NGOs. REC COH was provided with newsletters, publications and brochures which helped to follow the stages of implementation.

Problems are foreseen already with the communication with municipalities since municipal election was held in autumn. Communication with the Ministry of Environment and water was slow. There was lot of uncertainties about positions and responsibilities and sometimes there was lack of interest to cooperate. The flood occurred in April caused a lot of damage and higher water level which caused difficulties and delays in the implementation. Sometimes there was lack of interest to give data on water quality, pollution etc. from authorities and corporates.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Out of the eleven project two contributed to minimizing agricultural discharges by collecting data and raising awareness among farmers. One project developed a demonstration area on sustainable forest and water management in order to avoid floods and two others succeeded in rehabilitating a lake and a meadow respectively. Two has reached very ambitious goals providing information about pollution on Danube (Reflex, Dráva River Alliance). Environmental awareness raising was emphasized in all projects especially the one which realized a moving exhibition about Danube and the one which were connected to cleaning actions along Ipoly. The project of Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Egyesület was a success in the field of public participation. Above all most of the actions of the eleven funded projects were reported by local media and sometimes by national media as well. Short descriptions of the projects are available on the homepage of REC Country office Hungary (www.rec.hu)

Overall results and impacts:

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Contributing to minimizing and controlling of agricultural discharges	Changing management of fertilizer usage on farms, promoting sustainable agricultural activities, developing chemical-free zones, abolishing illegal waste dumps	In one particular case environment protection authority action was asked in order to regulate a polluting firm	Monitoring data collected about the pollution in Altal-er; 1 publication A4 fiche, 3000 copies 5 half-day training for farmers	Good partnership and cooperation with municipalities and local NGOs to reach the goal;
	Informing and educating farmers about alternative and sustainable agricultural activities		2 forum was organized for farmers, 1 for citizens with 15-30 participants Newsletters 1 publication A5, 2500 copies	Good media coverage by the local TV and newspapers
Preventing the damages caused by floods and pollution		Developing a demonstrating area on the sustainable forest and water management	4 areas were studied by walking 4 work maps were developed about the areas 4 "damage to ship" maps were developed Demonstrating area were identified, reforestation actions were implemented Publication on damages caused by floods of the streams of the small region	The rate of participation (more participants than expected) of the data collection of the study areas

	Lobbying for integrating sustainability into the large water management projects financed by EU funds		Two forums were organised Brochure was published Short expert report on the projects was made	Two newspaper articles, radio interviews
Providing environmental information about pollution on Danube	Providing easy-to-understand information about Danube monitoring data and changing local people mentality	Reducing amount of nutrients by establishing/maintaining waste collection platform by Raba river	Data are available on the website since November 2006) on the InfoLanc website (www.infolink.hu) On the river bank (in 1,5 km) 50 m ³ of waste was collected Leaflet in 2000 copies were disseminated	Good quality of cooperation with different stakeholders During the project time eliminated waste dumps were not reborn
	Providing easy-to-understand information about illegal waste dumps along the Dráva river	Eliminating smaller dumps and making efforts to eliminate the bigger ones as well	ARCView based maps were made from the collected data, giving useful information on polluting sources Smaller illegal waste dumps were eliminated Leaflets were disseminated	
Diminishing pollution from industry and households	Protection of the drinking water basin	Approached to prevent the construction of a cement factory in the area	8 forums were organised in 6 settlements for the public about the construction and its effects 5 NGO meetings 3 press conferences 1 brochure and disseminated in 60 thousand households	Strong cooperation with NGOs Good quality of information dissemination towards the public Wide range of media coverage about the cleaning action
	Volunteers and public were involved in the cleaning action, environmental awareness was raised	All waste were collected along the river (100 sacks) 3500 kg electronic waste were collected from households	1 action about cleaning Ipoly river (84 volunteers)	
Protection of natural environment, assessing its statement, rehabilitation activities	Building partnerships with municipalities and NGOs and raise the issue to them, they became more responsible	The rehabilitation of lake and restore the nature's natural water cleaning characteristic	Water measuring: on 17+12 points, finding the location of 3 pollution sources Fishing of 150 kg fish on 50.000 m ² 1200 m ² water rehabilitation Leaflet about the project in 1000 copies	Good cooperation with authorities and other organisations By the end of the project the water quality indicators got significantly better

		Rehabilitation of natural environment of a 20 ha meadow	10 ha meadow rehabilitation (50 volunteers) 15 studying trip on 20 ha 26 species were put in the database Three 10m*10m area were marked for long-term monitoring	Good cooperation with authorities and with other NGOs Intensive media coverage of the rehabilitation action
Education about the importance of water and Danube as nature heritage	Raising awareness about Danube and its environment		6 exhibition, 3791 children visited	Very good feedbacks about the exhibition from the visitors book Good results of quiz

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

Award No	NGO	Stakeholders
23	Reflex Győr	Ministry of Environment and Water, Slovak-Hungarian Committee for Environment and Nature Protection, NGOs, authorities, research institute
20	Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Association	Several municipalities, authorities, research institute, NGOs and corporations
29	Clean Air Working Group	Decision makers, Politicians, Research institute, NGOs
12	Tavirózsa Association	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Duna-Ipoly National Park, National Public Health and Medical Officer Service, Hungarian organizations of Environmental Forum, Municipality of Veresegyhaz, NGOs
13	Magosfa Foundation	Volunteers, residents, Directorate of the Frontier Guard of Balassagyarmat, Environmental and Water Directorate of Middle-Danube valley, NGOs
07	Center for Environmental Studies (CES)	Altar-er Assosiation, Tatai Oreg-to public benefit foundation, Municipality of Tata, other local authorities
28	Holocen Nature Conservation Association	Aggtelek National Park, municipalities and residents, regional Development Agency of North Hungary, WWF Hungary, other NGOs foundations
03	Drava river Alliance	South Transdanubian National Park, Environmental and Water Directorate of South Transdanubia, local authorities, associations
19	Pisztráng Kör Association	Settlements - local public places, clubs and schools
08	Pilis Nature Conservation Association	Danube Museum, Duna-Ipoly National Park, associations of bird protection, local grammar school
32	Friends of the Earth Hungary - Hungarian Alliance of Conservationists	Ministry of Environment and Water, National Development Agency, EU bodies, NGOs

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- 1) Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.
- 2) Lobbying and campaigning.
- 3) Public participation.
- 4) Environmental education and training.
- 5) Networking and partnerships.
- 6) Interactive case projects.
- 7) Monitoring.
- 8) Research.
- 9) Other?

Award No	NGO	Tools
23	Reflex Győr	5: Reflex was organising several meetings with experts from the Ministry of Environment and Water and Water Directories
20	Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Association	1-2: organizing several forums for the public about a certain investment in the area, making press release; 5: developing cooperation between NGOs; 8: data collection from several stakeholders; 9: purchasing water quality measuring appliance
29	Clean Air Working Group	1: organizing forums for farmers, media coverage 2: participation in the meetings of the pesticide allowing committee
12	Tavirózsa Association	1: writing articles and display project results on the website; 2: contacting with stakeholders and informing municipality representatives about project results; 3: involving volunteers; 5; 7-8: measuring water quality, measuring botanical and hydro analytical standards
13	Magosfa Foundation	1, 3, 5: Cleaning action of Ipoly was organized and implemented in cooperation with local authorities and citizens.
07	Center for Environmental Studies (CES)	2: campaigning at local polluters 4: brochure and training for farmers 7, 8: Collection of data and other sources on Által-ér
28	Holocen Nature Conservation Association	5: building partnerships with stakeholders, information dissemination; 6: research on case studies from internet; 8: research about the problems occurring and their causes on the studied area
03	Drava river Alliance	7: The activists of the Alliance made a lot of field work in order to map and monitor illegal waste dumps along the river
19	Pisztráng Kör Association	1, 4: The association made a moving interactive exhibition about Danube
08	Pilis Nature Conservation Association	5, 7: Monitoring and networking. Pilis Nature Conservation Association was continuously monitoring the species in the area and also contacted and worked with existing partners and built partnerships with other actors
32	Friends of the Earth Hungary - Hungarian Alliance of Conservationists	2, 3: two forums were organized one about the Vasarhelyi Plan for all stakeholders and one about the sustainable development of the Central Hungarian Lowlands Area for NGOs

Media coverage:

Award No	NGO	Media coverage
23	Reflex Győr	They have held a press conference on the field. Local, regional and national TV coverage, radio report and press releases.
20	Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Association	The project got wide media coverage. The association held a press conference about the problem, organized several public participation forums and the forums were followed by TV and radio reports. National, local TV and press coverage.
29	Clean Air Working Group	Local television and newspapers. Press releases. Own newsletters, web presents. Report in the national News Television.
12	Tavirózsa Association	Activities and results published on the internet.
13	Magosfa Fundation	80 seconds of report was done by the Hungarian National Television about the Ipoly cleaning action, press release, radio report, local newspaper
07	Center for Environmental Studies (CES)	Local newspapers. CES Newsletter (web). A brochure was made and disseminated locally.
28	Holocen Nature Conservation Association	Information has been given during the “Zöld sajtóreggeli” – ‘Green media breakfast’ in every month to the representatives of local media.
03	Drava river Alliance	Maps made up from the collected data will be published through the internet. Brochures for awareness raising.
19	Pisztráng Kör Association	National, local radio and local newspapers
08	Pilis Nature Conservation Association	Local media, Esztergom TV.
32	Friends of the Earth Hungary - Hungarian Alliance of Conservationists	Press release was made about polluting projects financed by European Funds on water management topic particularly about Danube-Tisza channel and Csongrad dam.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Union for the part of Danube crossing the Esztergom micro-region
Project goals	The goal of the project is to unite stakeholders in order to protect water basin in the Esztergom micro-region. Activities are mapping the area considering the polluting sources, monitor the area and disseminate data. Control the polluting factories which are operating in the area and raise awareness and encourage their environmental behaviour.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect	The published data about pollution sources will raise the awareness of citizens, municipalities and authorities. It will encourage the industries to decrease their

nutrient reduction	emissions through the pressure of these groups.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Wide range of stakeholders were contacted and involved. Apart from the citizens of the settlements, municipalities, local NGOs, water managing authorities from Hungary and Slovakia were involved and several factories were contracted for providing data and cooperate.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	Esztergomi Környezetkultúra Association organized 8 public forums in 6 settlements for citizens about the effects of construction and operation of a new cement factory site in the area. The forums were held before the referendum. On the referendum 30.000 people participated and 5 settlements refused the construction. Also the firm decided not to incinerate hazardous waste which could pollute the drinking water basin. Additionally the firm will build a train terminal and switch to transfer on trails instead on road, which is a good result since the road is along on the Danube shore. Data has gathered from four authorities, 17 settlements, and two micro regions. Several lectures in schools and in the summer camp of Mariahalom. National, local TV and press coverage.

Project Title	Our vital element is the water, father of our homeland is the Danube
Project goals	The goal of the project is to raise public awareness primarily among the school children.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	As the project goal is the awareness raising the impact is rather indirect. This is an educational approach - through the children try to reach families and the wider public in order to change bad habit. Long term goal.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Public – local citizens. Children, teachers, families.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	Pisztrang Kor has made a moving interactive exhibition about Danube, its values and the importance of protecting it. The impressive exhibition held in 6 towns for students and children but it has reached other age groups too. Among the locations there were small towns, villages but the capital city too. The exhibition had around 3800 visitors.

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE FINAL REPORT

REC Country Office: Regional Environmental Centre Moldova

Amount of Grant Fund: 40.000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 40.000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 4

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

The Danube Regional Project / National Grants, second round was launched in Moldova in August 2005. The application procedure consisted of two phases: the concept paper and the full proposal preparation.

- Concept paper phase: deadline for submission: September 30, 2005 and concept paper evaluation: October 2005.
- Full proposal preparation: deadline for submission: December 5, 2005 and evaluation till December 21, 2005.

Within the first phase of writing concept papers, REC Moldova, registered 12 concept papers, submitted by the Moldovan NGOs. All the applications were received in time. Two of them were rejected because of failure to meet the eligibility criteria (the projects do not address nutrient and toxic reduction in the Danube River Basin, as stated in the announcement). The concept papers winners were notified about and invited at REC Moldova for a one - day training session organised on the 20th of October 2005. The goal of the training was to assist the selected NGOs in preparing/writing complete project proposals: approaching the logical matrix, project planning, project writing, media session, project budget etc.

Within the second phase of full project development, REC Moldova registered 8 project proposals. All the applications were presented to the Local Grants Committee members for evaluation.

Consequently, the Grants Committee Members gathered on the 20th of December 2005, in Chisinau, at REC Moldova, and selected 4 projects for funding (according to the evaluation criteria), with a total budget of 40,000 USD. All the applicants were notified of the decision of the Grants Committee by phone and by post, sending them rejection or approval letters. Also, the information about the awarded projects was presented on the REC Moldova web page, electronic bulletin, quarterly informative bulletin and the "Natura" Periodical Publication.

On the 12th of January 2006, the grant winners were invited for the Winners Meeting. The project managers made a presentation of their projects. The participants got acquaintance of the terms of the Award Agreement, such as: the project schedule for providing progress and financial reports and the

schedule for providing the NGO with funding based upon the progress in implementing the project. Also, the project management requirements have been explained (implementation, evaluation and reporting).

The Moldovan NGOs started the implementation of their projects in January 2006.

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1	DRP2005/N G001	10.000	Pollution reduction with nutrients in the Danube hydrographical basin, by promotion and use of the Good Agriculture Practices, environmentally friendly	<p>The project aimed to increase the cooperation between local public authorities (LPA), farmers, local population, environmental and agriculture field NGOs etc. to promote the use of the best agriculture practices in order to reduce and prevent nutrient and toxic pollution issued from agriculture sector. The project involved a wide public information and education campaign. The implementation of the project started with the launching of the contest. 25 local farmers were selected and involved in the training programme on promoting and testing the BAP on their own lands. Based on the increased interest of farmers, additionally, 3-5 farmers joint each session.</p> <p>To promote and share experience on organic farming, the project team organised the international conference in Moldova with participation of Romanian representatives. Lately, in June, Moldovan farmers visited Romanian farms where the BAP have been applied.</p> <p>Moldovan farmers agreed on creating two demonstrational land lots approaching BAP (sunflower and sugar-beet), lately the productivity was proved. Also, in Izvoare village, the farmers and the Mayoralty contributed to develop and arrange a platform for collecting and storing animal waste.</p> <p>The hotline opened within the NGO office continued to be operational during one year. 84 calls for request of information regarding the use of BAP or disregard of the ecological law have been registered. As a result, all the cases were monitored and the polluters fined.</p> <p>A large campaign on the removal of unauthorised dumps and cleaning up on the riverbanks was conducted being assisted by the network of the NGOs created in the first project, as well as teachers, pupils and local volunteers.</p> <p>The NGO team conducted a very large media campaign to promote the BAP as a way to reduce nutrient and toxic pollution in Prut River (radio, TV, electronic press and newspapers). At the end of the project, a</p>

				<p>brochure was published, entitled “The will of the Best Agriculture Practices, environmentally friendly”.</p> <p>Results and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 30 farmers trained to use BAP. 20 farmers do not use pesticides in agriculture. The others started to use less pesticide. The benefits of using BAP was very largely promoted • Exchange of experience between Moldovan and Romanian farmers • Public information and participation in the region increased • 2 demonstrational land lots created using BAP in order to serve as a model and prove the benefits • The production of informational and educational materials • 8 Hotspots liquidated in Horesti, Taxobeni, Izvoare, Glingeni, Călugăr villages. 2000 trees planted. The environmental quality on the riverbeds improved. • The Sovatul de Jos, Lucacei and Camenca riverbanks cleaned up • A model for collecting and storing the animal wastes created • Public attitude and behavior modified • The activity of the networked NGOs strengthened • The cooperation with the LPA strengthened • The quality of water in the small rivers improved. According to the water tests the concentration of nitrate and ammonium decreased
2	DRP2005/N G002	8.082	Public involvement in the process of nutrient reduction in the Lower Prut Basin and nutrient pollution prevention through complex monitoring of the quality of the environment	<p>The project aimed to research nutrient and toxic pollution reduction in the Lower Prut Basin, promote the implementation of the Alert System in the respective region, raise public and LPA awareness and knowledge, strengthen efforts and cooperation towards prevention, minimization and liquidation of hotspots of pollution and disseminate the results on the local and regional scales. Also, the project aimed to promote the best agriculture practices, working directly with the farmers.</p> <p>The project started with the organisation of the</p>

				<p>preparatory meeting in order to share responsibilities between partners, agree the activity steps, strategy of communication and project evaluation mechanism.</p> <p>The implementation of the project consists of three main components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantitative and qualitative environmental monitoring in the Lower Prut Basin. The project team gathered and evaluated the existing data concerning the quality of the environment in the region (5 Districts). Then, about 70 samples of water and soil from different points have been tested within the State Hydro- meteorological laboratory. The project team focused mainly on the illegal dumps (household, animal waste) situated on the riverbeds, as a significant source of nutrient pollution. The results of the monitoring were communicated to the local authorities, NGOs and population. Some mayors showed interest and ability to deal immediately with the hotspots. - Information and education campaign of the agricultures. A range of meetings were organised to inform the agricultures about the use of environmentally friendly methods in agriculture and reducing pollution with nutrients. This component was implemented in partnership with the Agronomic Association. - Public information and awareness related to pollution with pesticides and toxic substances. Two evaluation seminars were organised to communicate the results of the monitoring, solutions and recommendation protect the Prut River. 2 maps indicating the level of pollution in the region were developed. <p>The results of the project were also communicated at the international workshops held in Ukraine and Romania. The information provided was very much appreciated by the Ukrainian partners.</p> <p>Results and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better information and understanding of nutrient and toxic pollution issues, its impact on environment and human health - A complex monitoring of water and soil quality and hotspots in the Lower Prut Basin undertaken - Production of maps indicating the level of soil and water pollution in the region - Improved communication and cooperation between local, central authorities, NGOs and farmers - Transboundary cooperation between Prut basin NGOs and Local authorities strengthened
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3	DRP2005/N G003	14.000	Reactivation of the secondary water purifying stage (biological) in the technological flux of the waste water treatment plant from Ungheni district	<p>The project aimed at partial upgrade of the second stage of water purifying process in the waste water treatment plant from Valea Mare locality which discharges its water directly in the Prut River and, also, to raise public awareness and change public attitude.</p> <p>The project consisted of 3 components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reactivation of the secondary water purifying stage (biological) in the technological flux of the waste water treatment plant from Ungheni district. <p>The project team conducted an assessment and feasibility study specific for the waste water treatment plant. Lately, this study was presented to the local economic agents and potential donors within the round table held in the region. Even if the expected co-funding was not available, the project team realized some partial upgrade on the biological stage. Continuous monitoring of water quality was conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education campaign. The project team organized a range of informational-educational trainings on nutrient pollution held with the teachers and pupils from the selected villages of Ungheni District. Also, a set of test kits was prepared together with methodological instructions to be used by the children in order to determine the level of nutrient pollution in the aquatic sources. Also, 100 water samples from the wells have been tested. A photo exhibition, with the sections entitled “The Danube and the Prut River”, “The polluted Danube” and “The silent Danube” was conducted during this campaign. - Information and awareness raising campaign. Three informational leaflets were printed and distributed in the selected settlements: about Danube Basin, about drinking water and about the nutrients. A more detailed informational bulletin was published at the end of the project. The bulletin was distributed locally, including to the local public authorities. An important activity, held on the national level, was the cycle of one-hour live radio broadcasts entitled “The tale of the Blue Danube”, including 15 of on-line contests for the children. <p>Results and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The efficiency of treatment of the used waters on the biological stage increased - A feasibility study on the improvement of waste water plant functioning was developed and the administration of the Apa-Canal as well as the NGO engaged in a fundraising campaign - Informative materials were published with consideration of the target groups - Public awareness in the region increased. - 6 trained groups of teachers and pupils in
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				<p>each village able to promote further and monitor the pollution with nutrients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population from Moldova, especially the children, gained knowledge about Danube Basin and nutrient pollution through the national broadcasts - Regular and effective cooperation with the local officials established
4	DRP2005/N G004	7.918	Danube and I	<p>The objectives of the project are to reduce and prevent nutrient and toxic pollution in the Danube River Basin increasing public information and awareness in the Prut River basin, promote and motivate public participation in real activities related to cleaning up and minimization of point and non-point pollution, including support to democratic process related to public participation to decision making process in problems affecting water quality in the Danube Basin.</p> <p>The main activity of the first phase dealt with the organisation of the contest of ecological essays and pictures designed for the pupils from the Prut River Basin (12 Districts). The NGO team in partnership with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education and its local educational Departments organised ecological classes in schools and lyceums, explaining to the children and teachers about the project, the contest and issues related to nutrient and toxic pollution reduction in the Danube Basin. More than 1000 pupils were informed about the project and the contest. The best works were awarded with prizes and were included in the Kit of best essays and pictures published later.</p> <p>Within the second phase of the project, the project team together with the contracted experts, formed a working group and developed the manual "I and the Danube". The manual was presented during the national seminar organised at the end of the project. The seminar was attended by teachers, NGOs and local authorities. The NGO developed also, the web page of the organisation www.medsan.md. The page is regularly updated.</p> <p>Results and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A Kit of the best essays and pictures published and disseminated in the Prut River schools - A manual with informative and illustrated materials published -Promotion of project activities through mass-media -Very good and successful cooperation ties developed with the Central Authorities.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased public access to information - Promotion of the Danube Day event - the NGO web page developed
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REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment

Others

Promote public participation in water protection

Grants monitoring

The Moldovan NGOs started the implementation of their projects in January 2006. All the project leaders presented quarterly updated activity plans with accurate information on project activities. The project coordinator from REC Moldova was permanently provided with information regarding the project activities to be implemented, obstacles, the possibilities to improve the projects, discussing different circumstances of projects implementation, agreeing future steps, presenting materials to be published etc.

The project implemented by the NGO Cutezatorul was monitored two times. Within the first monitoring visit, on June 2, 2006, REC representatives attended the second training session organised within the project. We were really impressed of the high interest and motivation of the involved trainees in the discussed topics related to the promotion and implementation of the Good Agriculture Practices. Also, the professionalism of the experts was appreciated, having great capacities to influence the trainees. In conclusion, we noticed a very high quality of educational programme. Within the second visit, on January 12, 2007, a representative from REC Moldova together with an expert in waste management monitored the component of the project related to pollution reduction on the riverbanks (removal of waste dumps, cleaning up activities etc.). The activities conducted by the NGO and partners have a very good environmental impact. Remarkable is that local population participated to a great extent in realizing project activities; this is due, also, to successful communication within the project.

On the 3rd of November 2006, we attended the first final workshop organised in Cahul town, by the Cahul Ecologic Consultations Centre. The presentations of the participants were appreciated, especially the contribution of the project partner from State Hydrometeorological Service. The NGO was suggested to promote further the results of the monitoring, not limit to the participants of the workshops, considering their importance and potential impact. Also, we insisted on a better communication within the project.

Two visits were conducted to Ungheni town, to the waste water treatment plant from Valea Mare locality. The first monitoring trip was organised at the end of January 2006. REC Moldova representatives met the main project partners. The goal of the meeting was to monitor the real situation of the plant, and discuss concrete activities to be undertaken, objectives and timeframe. The project coordinator from REC Moldova participated, also, at the August radio broadcast session

conducted by the NGO „Calitatea Mediului”, within its information, awareness raising and education component of the project. The radio broadcast lasted for one hour, including ten minutes ecological contest on the quality and importance of the Danube River Basin tributaries. A final evaluation visit was organised at the end of the project, December 20, 2006. The project team listed all direct and indirect benefits of the project activities. Nutrient and toxic pollution issues became clearly defined issues in the region. The NGO has developed good partnership with the water related bodies, local authorities and schools. The communication was qualified as satisfactory.

REC Moldova participated closely in the organisation of the essays and drawing contest organised by the NGO “Mediul și Sănătatea” within the project “Danube and I”, starting with the launching, evaluation, brochure editing and awarding ceremony. Also, REC representatives attended the final seminar conducted in Chisinau city, on December 16, 2006. The quality of the project activities was appreciated. A strong partnership was developed with the Ministries and local educational departments. The project has a very good indirect impact and a potential sustainability related to information and education rising.

The NGOs sent their progress reports as follows:

The NGO “Cutezătorul” submitted the final report on the 15th of January 2007. The project is in line with the project framework. The narrative report is very detailed; all the justifying information was attached. The project is efficiently managed and the project costs are justified. All the activities were well implemented (highly skilled experts, information, awareness, mass-media, concrete results etc.). The feedback from the involved stakeholders is significant. The project beneficiaries are continuously expressing strong interest and need for the project continuation. This is due to the activism proved by the project team and NGO members involved in the project activities which proved a great capacity of influencing the stakeholders. The project was very well publicly followed and widely covered by media on the local, regional and national levels. The project was professionally implemented. It has a very high relevance to the objectives of the Granting programme, achieving the foreseen results.

The NGO “Cahul Ecologic Consultations Centre” submitted the final report on the 15th of January 2007. The first phase of the project was implemented with a little delay because of difficult weather, continuous rains that postponed the activities. The second phase of the project was in line with the activity plan, so the project was finalised by December 2006 as agreed in the Award Agreement. The financial report was accepted as a relevant one. All the financial documents to justify the project activities were attached. The narrative report was also accepted, but with few comments. The project leader was asked to present some more detailed information about the meetings organised with the Ukrainian and Romanian interested partners, the cooperation and attitude taken by the local public authorities as a result of the monitoring undertaken by the project team in the Southern Region of Moldova. Additional information was provided lately by e-mail. The project was implemented according to the project proposal.

The NGO “Calitatea Mediului” submitted the final report on the 22nd of January, 2007. The project was implemented efficiently and professionally, even better than it was originally planned. The information and education component was implemented according to the scheduled plan, but the activities of reactivation of the secondary water purifying stage (biological) started later because of technical reasons. Although the foreseen co-financing from the Ecological Fund of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources was not available, the project team made great efforts and works to upgrade partially the second stage of water treatment. “Apa-Canal Enterprise” introduced its own contribution. The project involved special approaches for different stakeholders involved in the project. The children and teachers formed a real partnership with the project team and they expressed high interest in project activities.

The NGO “Mediul și Sănătatea” submitted the final report on the 12^h of January 2007. The report was very detailed and transparent. The NGO proved a very good project management, from both financial and technical view. REC Moldova staff was involved in each activity concerning the contest development and realisation. The project was implemented in an efficient partnership established with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources from Moldova, Ministry of Education, Ecological Movement from Moldova (NGO) and the “Natura” newspaper.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Two projects contributing to introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters (NG001, NG002)	Reducing nutrients by promoting the use of the best agriculture practices among local public authorities, farmers and individuals, changing people's mentality, establishing a system of monitoring of the riverbanks and water quality, raise public information and awareness, increase public participation in the Northern and Southern regions of Moldova	Reducing directly the amount of nutrients in the farms located in the Danube River Basin, Falesti District, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, collection and storage of animal waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 3000 informed • 100 farmers informed directly • 33 farmers trained within 4 one-day training sessions • 14 farmers from Moldova visited Romanian farms • 20 farmers not using chemical fertilizers • Number of farmers using less chemical fertilisers • demonstrational land lots created • One day international seminar for 50 participant from Moldova and Romania • A round table and 2 seminars attended by 100 representatives of LPA and farmers • Information poster on BAP use • 4 informational bulletins • 3 leaflets disseminated • 1000 simples of brochure published and disseminated • demonstrational platform for collection and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good cooperation ties NGO-Local public authorities – economic agents • Active involvement of the networked NGOs • Outreach of PR materials • Increased knowledge, awareness and responsibility of the farmers and individuals • Transboundary approach • Wide media coverage • High interest of all stakeholders (based on questionnaires, calls and involvement on a volunteers basis) • High quality of educational programme and materials (high skilled experts, questionnaires) • A complex monitoring of soil and water quality in the 4 Districts from Prut river Basin undertaken • stronger roles and positions of NGOs in Danube pollution-related issues • Follow-up activities

			<p>storage of animal waste created</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 articles in written press • 8 radio-broadcasts • 84 calls of warning signals, suggestions and recommendations registered (hotline) 	
Address household waste management (NG001, NG002)	Reducing nutrients and toxic pollution by changing public behaviour, promote public involvement and participation, influencing decision makers to take real action towards Prut River basin rehabilitation	Reducing directly the amount of nutrients and toxics by managing practical activities of riverbanks rehabilitation, removal of hotspots from the riverbanks, cleaning up the riverbanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 people informed • An Intervention Council created • Information poster on waste management • 2 seminars attended by 70 persons • 500 citizens involved directly • One bulletin • 2 leaflets • 9 radiobroadcasts • 2 maps with the scheme of collecting water and soil samples developed • 2 maps with the level of nutrient and pesticides pollution in the Southern region developed • Data base created • 6 written articles in mass-media • 12 illegal dumps liquidated in 10 villages/2000 trees planted • 3 wells cleaned up • Liquidation of chemical remains in 4 localities • 4 km of river banks cleaned up involving 350 children, NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality of cooperation and high involvement of Local Public Authorities to solve local waste management problems ○ Increased knowledge, awareness and responsibility of the individuals from the river basin ○ Outreach of PR materials ○ List of successful lobbying cases ○ A complex monitoring of hotspots in 6 Districts from Prut river Basin undertaken. Polluters identified and fined ○ Follow up activities

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and Local Public Authorities Operational hotline/84 calls 	
Address urban waste-water collection and treatment (NG003)	Manage activities which lead to indirect impact on nutrient and toxic pollution. Involve other stakeholders, change public behaviour	Manage activities leading to direct impact on reducing nutrient and toxic pollution by upgrading the second stage of water treatment within the Valea Mare waste water treatment plant, Ungheni District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A feasibility study developed A round table attended by 25 economic agents 82-85 % retention in solid waste and sand 70 % increase in the level of purification 20 % decrease of the concentration of ammonium 30 % decrease in the concentration of organic substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation with the LPA strengthened Controlling and monitoring system enforced Partial upgrade of the second stage of water treatment The efficiency of water treatment increased (proved by the water tests and even by the disappearance of the bad and persistent smell)
Promote public participation in water protection, raise public information and awareness on water protection issues(NG003, NG 004)	Manage activities leading to indirect impact on nutrient and toxic reduction through informational and education campaigns, supporting public participation, developing partnership etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contest of ecological essays and pictures designed and carried out 12 Districts from the Prut River Basin involved 6 radio broadcasts conducted lasting one hour/53 children participated/15 - awarded 5 media written articles 428 samples of pictures and essays A Kit of the best essays and pictures published A manual "Danube and I" published 3 Photo exhibitions conducted 1 web page developed 4 flyers produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources, the Ministry of Education and Local departments of Education. Good cooperation ties developed Raised public information and awareness Quality of seminars (questionnaires) High interest expressed in the respective field Good cooperation ties developed with the mayoralities and teachers

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 informational bulletin published • 6 trainings for 140 children • Water Test kits developed with the methodological instructions 	
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Finally we can summarise few concrete results of the projects:

- As a result of the project one pilot platform for collection and composting the organic waste was created in Falesti district. Organic waste, in particular animal dejections represent about 30-40 % of the waste generated in the Falesti district. The implementation team decided to build a pilot platform for few villages. The organic fractions are collected separately from other waste composed. In this context, a preliminary instruction of the local population have been organised. The composted organic waste is used to improve the soil quality and enrich it with organic fertilizers. This activity will help to reduce the impact of water and soil pollution with nutrients. The implementation team is thinking to extend this practice to other villages of the district.
- 20 farmers from the Falesti district involved in the project decided not to use chemical fertilisers, that means that more than 1500 ha were and will be treated only with organic fertilise. Taking into consideration that the main pollution of the Prut river in this region is coming from agriculture discharges it is clear that this is a great achievement of the project.
- Partial upgrade of the second stage of water treatment plant in Ungheni. Unfortunately because of the lack of funds was not possible to renovate completely the second stage of water treatment at the Water Treatment Plant in Ungheni. But even with the work done a great achievement in water treatment was realised: *70 % increase in the level of water purification*
20 % decrease of the concentration of ammonium
30 % decrease in the concentration of organic substances
- During the project implementation in 3 raions (Cahul, Cantemir, Cimislia) hotspots have been mapped, polluters identified and fined. More, 2 maps with the scheme of collecting water and soil samples developed, 2 maps with the level of nutrient and pesticides pollution in the Southern region developed
- Two projects were implemented with the major aim “Promote public participation in water protection, raise public information and awareness on water protection issues”. The concrete results of these projects will be available later in few years but deep cooperation of the implementation teams with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education, Public TV Company “TeleRadio Moldova”, Local Public Administrations could be considered as big achievement.

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

Farmers – about 1000

Local population

Pupils and teachers – more than 2000

Local Authorities (mayoralities, local educational departments, department for food and agriculture, local ecological agencies, Ecological Inspectorates) – about 55

Economic agents - 23

NGOs - 12

Mass-media – 13

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

DRP2005/NG001 - Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media, environmental education and training, lobbying and campaigning, networking and partnerships, monitoring, practical demonstrational activities

DRP2005/NG002 - Lobbying and campaigning, networking and partnerships, monitoring and research, information and education

DRP2005/NG003 - Lobbying and campaigning, networking and partnerships, monitoring and research, information and education involving teachers and pupils

DRP2005/NG004 - Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media, networking and partnerships, public participation, contest carrying out involving actively the schools.

Media coverage:

DRP2005/NG001 – National and local radio broadcasts - 13, News Agency “Basa-Press” – 1, News Agency “DECA – Press” – 1, “Patria Mea” District Council publication – 2, electronic informative bulletin “Contact – Nord” – 1, REC Moldova quarterly informative bulletin – 1, Cutezatorul web page

DRP2005/NG003 – National radio broadcasts – 6, local newspaper - 1

DRP2005/NG004 – National radio broadcasts - 1, REC Moldova electronic bulletin - 1, Periodical Publication “Natura” – 2, REC Moldova quarterly informative bulletin – 1

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Reactivation of the secondary water purifying stage (biological) in the technological flux of the waste water treatment plant from Ungheni district
Project goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve the efficiency of biological water treatment within the waste water treatment plant from Valea Mare, Ungheni District2. Better information and understanding of nutrient and toxic pollution reduction in the Prut River Basin.3. Assist a number of teachers and pupils to address problems related to nutrient pollution reduction by transferring the necessary knowledge and experience through trainings and educational materials.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	<p>Direct impact: In the first round of DRP, the NGO upgraded the first stage of water treatment at the treatment plant from Valea Mare, Ungheni District, and now, in the second round of DRP, with great efforts, the second stage of waste water treatment was also, partially restored. According to the water tests and also, the disappearance of the bed and persistent smell, the quality of discharged water directly into the Prut River improved significantly.</p> <p>Indirect impact: raised public awareness on issues related to nutrient and toxic pollution, teachers and pupils informed and trained on the use of test kits and are able to monitor the ecological situation of the riverbanks, determine the quality of the rivers and drinking water, take attitude etc. A strong and regular cooperation with the mayors will lead to increased control to preserve good ecological situation in their settlements.</p>
Range and involvement	The Apa Canal enterprise was the main partners involved in the project. All

of stakeholders	activities related to improving the efficiency of wastewater treatment were undertaken with the support of the engineers. 25 economic agents, 140 pupils, teacher and mayors from Ungheni District participated in the round table, trainings and meetings organised to disseminate information on the pollution of the Danube basin, its impact, solutions, personal contribution etc. Children from Moldova were targeted also through the radio campaigns.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feasibility study developed (new technologies researched) • A round table held in the region attended by 25 economic agents • 82-85 % retention in solid waste and sand • 70 % increase in the level of purification • 20 % decrease of the concentration of ammonium • 30 % decrease in the concentration of organic substances • 6 one day theoretical and practical seminars attended by 140 pupils and teachers • 6 radio broadcasts conducted lasting by one our/53 children participated/15 - awarded • 1 written article in the local media • 3 Photo exhibitions conducted • 4 flyers produced • 1 informational bulletin published • Water Test kits developed with the methodological instructions • Good cooperation ties developed with 6 mayoralities



Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REC Country Office: ROMANIA

Amount of Grant Fund: 50,000

Amount Disbursed: 50,000

Number of NGOs supported: 5

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

Concept paper deadline: September 15, 2005

Received applications: 17

Approved for the next phase: 8

For evaluating the concept papers, the meeting of the Romania local advisory Board was held on September 26, 2005.

Evaluation panel members:

Ana Drapa – Ministry of Environment and Water Management

Anne Marie Ciurea - Ministry of Environment and Water Management

Mirela Leonte – Eco Counseling Center- Galati, DEF Representative

Lucian Ionescu- REC Romania

Magda Chitu- REC Romania

Full proposal dead-line: December 5, 2005

Received applications: 8

Awarded: 5

Meeting of the Romania local advisory Board was held on December 12, 2005.

Evaluation panel members:

Ana Drapa – Ministry of Environment and Water Management

Anne Marie Ciurea - Ministry of Environment and Water Management

Mirela Leonte – Eco Counselling Center- Galati, DEF Representative

Mihaela Dupleac - GEF SGP National Coordinator -UNDP Romania

Adriana Micu - Task Manager Environment -EU Delegation

Lucian Ionescu- REC Romania

Magda Chitu- REC Romania

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1	DRPGN	13230	Preventing and reduction	Preventing and reduction of pollution with

	007		of pollution with nutrients from agro-zoo technical sources in Olt river basin- area of Danube River affluence	nutrients from agro-zoo technical sources in the Danube area afferent to Olt county, by elaborating adequate local policies and raise populations awareness. The project aims to create a participative attitude of the local communities referring to the pollution generated from the agro-zoo technical sources by a complex communication programme: informing-knowing-assuming-participating.
2	DRPGN 012	9600	Cooperation to reduce pollution with nutrients from agricultural sources in Ilfov county	The project aims to contribute to the reduction of pollution with nitrates in Ilfov county based on the inter-sectorial cooperation in elaborating an action plan for the vulnerable areas and promoting best agricultural practices in the local communities and the role of the wet areas.
3	DRPGN 010	9670	Clean land, rich man!	The overall objective of the project is to prevent the pollution of ground and surface waters with nitrates and nitrites in Calarasi county. The project addresses a number of 680 direct beneficiaries, from the following categories: farmers, local authorities, citizens and small farmers.
4	DRPGN 015	8500	Action Plan to reduce the nutrient and pesticides pollution in Maramures	Reducing nutrient and pesticides pollution in the Maramures Depression through: 1. inter-sectorial cooperation; 2.promoting best agricultural practices; 3. preserving the wetlands areas, protect and ecological reconstruction
5	DRPGN 002	9000	Clean waters, without nutrients, through natural fertilisers	The project solves the nutrient pollution problem from the individual house waste, animal farms waste. Raise population awareness and installing a controlled deposit for these wastes.

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

Monitoring trips:

21 March 2006 – Slatina, Olt county, within DRPNG 007: workshop of the working group for elaboration the Action Plan for preventing and reduction nutrient pollution.

18 April 2006 – Bucharest, within DRPNG 012: stakeholders meeting for developing the Action plan for vulnerable areas in Ilfov county.

22-23 May 2006 – Calarasi, within DRPNG 110: training session for farmers and local public authorities' representatives.

1 June 2006 – Prisacani, Iasi County, within DRPNG002: public meeting for farmers and local community.

21 September 2006 – Alexandru Odobescu, Calarasi County, within DRPNG 110: visit during travelling information dissemination seminars.

31 October 2006 – Slatina, Olt County, within DRPNG 007: information and training session of the local stakeholders for implementing the Local Action Plan for nutrient reduction in 6 villages of Olt county.

10 December 2006 – Sighetu Marmatiei, Maramures County, within DRPGN015: information dissemination seminar addressed to farmers regarding good agricultural practices and wet lands role in pesticides pollution reduction.

Problems encountered by the NGO during the project implementation:

- Meetings in Iasi had to be organized depending on different other public national events, such as 1st June (Child day celebration), when people is available for such events.

-problems with VAT certificates, that caused short delays on projects implementation.

- communication problems between members of working groups for elaboration of Action plans: not all representatives of public institutions have access to internet/ some of information was obtained using official letters, despite the working consensus within the group.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

Second Round of the National Grants had increased knowledge and awareness of the communities and stakeholders in water pollution and water management issues. Even small projects, with limited areas of implementation, due to strong visibility elements, their impact within local communities was strong and the message promoted effectively reached the targeted audience. In terms of geographic location, it is worth emphasizing that the selected projects covered several various field locations, respectively sub-basins - from lower Olt sub-basin to Prut in Central Moldova. Whereas one project demonstrated NGOs capacity to directly address nutrient control priorities (through building individual manure platform), all five projects had adopted a capacity building focus pertaining to agricultural practices that are benefiting the environment and the market-value of the agricultural products; capacity building activities aimed mainly at rural communities - including the local city councilors and landowners and farmers were thus organised, for example: 12 events (workshops, public meetings, training courses) involving more than 500 participants, 3 local awareness rising campaigns and 2 collaborative Action Plans for agricultural pollution control.

New messages were developed and tested in the specific local social-cultural contexts in the form of printed materials and in one project, radio has been extensively used as channel to disseminate information and respective key messages.

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
5 projects addressing -Applying best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters. -Contributing to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies). -Promoting eco-farming methods and alternative	Promoting reduction of nutrients and other pollutants used in agriculture Awareness raising among farmers and local communities	Building 1 individual platforms for manure depositing in Prisacani village (Iasi county)	4 training sessions 60 trained participants 1 workshop 550 copies of brochures 1300 copies of leaflets 50 copies of posters 25 press releases distributed 6 articles in local press 1 article in national press 2 announcements at local radio 50 copies of CD's 3 public meetings (50-100 part/meeting) 1 multimedia presentation	Increased level of knowledge regarding the importance of good agricultural practices (including organic farming) among farmers and local authorities in 5 counties of Romania. Exchange of information and expertise from World Bank projects in Calarasi county (Pollution control in agriculture) that had been used in implementation of 2 of our DRP National Grants (Iasi and Calarasi) Local level media coverage (press, radio)

rural development			1 banner 2 Action Plans for nutrient pollution reduction 1 individual platform built-up 1 information dissemination traveling seminars (10 visits in 10 villages of Calarasi county; 400 participants) special section on www.apmot.ro (Local Environmental Protection Agency Slatina) dedicated to 1 project	
2 projects addressing Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.	Information dissemination and awareness raising regarding the role of wetlands in pollution reduction	Action Plan for reduction of nutrient pollution as bases for development of specific Action Programs addressing 8 vulnerable areas in Ilfov county, according to MO 296/216, 11 April 2005	7 public meetings 300 participants training materials 1000 information packages (including brochure, leaflet, poster)	Increased awareness level of farmers leaving in the vulnerable areas Level of authorities' implication in implementation of the Plan.

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

Farmers: 2000

Local authorities' representatives: 20

Civil society representatives: 60

Schools: 100

Mass media: 1 radio station, 6 local newspapers

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.
- Public participation.
- Environmental education and training.
- Networking and partnerships.

Media coverage:

-local level coverage, 2 announcement at 1 radio station “Radio Iasi”; 25 press releases, 6 articles in local newspapers.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Clean waters, without nutrients, through natural fertilisers
Project goals	<p>Raise awareness and involve the farmers in supporting the reduction in number of waste deposits (the ones in unconformity with good agricultural practices)</p> <p>Building a controlled deposit for agriculture wastes in Prisacani village</p>
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	<p>The direct impact on nutrient reduction will mainly consist in building 1 individual platform for wastes depositing in Prisacani village. The Local Council supports the initiative and recently issued a decision establishing the location of the platform.</p> <p>During the 3 public meetings in Prisacani and Mosna (neighbouring village), the information materials have been distributed and a very interesting multimedia projection have been presented. A good feedback was received from the audience (over 200 persons). The main interest of the community was on concrete measures of reduction of nutrients, materialised in the way of establishing collective and individual platforms.</p>
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Main focus on the local communities, schools but including authorities, NGOs and media.
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 public meetings (2 in Prisacani and 1 in Mosna, Iasi county)• Decision of the Local Council with regards to the establishment of the waste platform• 1 individual platform built-up• 300 leaflets• 50 brochures• 50 CDs• 1 banner• research – complete technical projects for individual platforms• 1 multi-media presentation• 2 radio announcements

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE FINAL REPORT

REC Country Office: Serbia

Amount of Grant Fund: 50.000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 50.000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 5 (five)

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

The announcement of the Call for Proposals was disseminated through usual, operational information sharing channels of REC CO, i.e. CO website (www.recyu.org), CO quarterly bulletin and electronic distribution lists with updated contact details of all relevant environmental organizations in the country. The Call was announced in the first half of July 2005. CO responsible project team members also informed NGO community about the granting scheme on several NGO meetings.

The deadline for receiving concept papers applications was September 15th 2005. Until that period some NGOs contacted REC CO requesting further clarifications of grant guidelines and financial procedures.

Before requested deadline (September 15th) 16 concept papers were submitted. One of received CPs was excluded from further evaluation (NGO-Green Network of Vojvodina was a DRP grantee in the first round, but did not, by this time, submit Final financial report). The rest of the concept papers were evaluated according to the criteria set up in the framework of the programme.

The evaluation committee consisting of two REC responsible managers and two LAB members (ICPDR and DEF delegated representatives) met on September 28th. 6 of the NGO CPs did not fulfill formal criteria; 10 NGOs CPs were selected for further evaluation in the second phase. After the CP evaluation CO Grant manager in cooperation with HO organized short (1-day) log-frame and media training on October 27th, in Kragujevac for short-listed NGOs. The aim of the training was to assist representatives of selected NGOs to prepare the full proposals. Two major components covered within the training were LFA approach and Media session, aimed at building capacities of NGOs to involve media and existing communication tools in their proposals.

Deadline for submitting full project proposals were December 12th 2005.

Evaluation committee met on January 11th, 2006 at the premises of the REC CO. The evaluation panel members were representatives of REC CO, Mr Uros Miloradovic, Project manager and Ms. Aleksandra Mladenovic, Project assistant, and LAB members: Ms Jelka Crnobrnja-Isailovic, Mrs. Dragana Tar, Mr Ilija Brceski, and Danube Focal Point Mrs. Ruzica Jacimovic (ICPDR Representative), as well Mrs. Mirjana Bartula (DEF Representative).

Agenda of the LAB meeting:

- 1) Welcome and Introduction
- 2) Information on Danube National Grants Program
- 3) Program evaluation criteria
- 4) Information on proposal papers
- 5) Evaluation of proposal papers

Welcoming and introduction of the Danube Regional Project and Introduction of Danube National Grants Program have been given by Uros Miloradovic. He also provided information on Danube National Grants Program, explaining evaluation tasks and decisions that are to be made as well as criteria for decision-making process, introduced criteria and evaluation procedures. After that discussion about the specific criteria was opened.

Program evaluation criteria that were taken into account defined as follows:

Environmental impact

- Direct or indirect actions that promise pollution (nutrients and/or toxic) reduction are clearly explained.
- SMART indicators are set and the way to verify them is defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used to achieve the goal and objectives.
- Multiplier effect: the project can be replicated.

Cooperation

- There is proven commitment to the project from stakeholders and their role is clearly defined.

Proposal quality

- Action plan is clear, feasible and realistic.
- Budget is cost-effective.

Staff capability

- NGO staff and other experts involved have experience and competence related to the addressed issue.

INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT PROPOSALS

7 proposal papers were submitted to the REC CO SCG before the deadline, 12th of December 2005. Project proposal L-15597 (Center for Development “Focus”, Belgrade), did not submit the complete application and therefore was not taken into account for the award of the grant. Ecology Center “Kruisevac” did not submit the application in time and was not qualified for the award of the grant. The rest of the proposal papers were evaluated according to the criteria set up in the framework of the program.

STATISTICS OF EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Limit: 50.000 USD
Amount awarded: 50.000 USD
Proposals received (number): 6
Proposals accepted for funding: 5
Proposals rejected: 1

Based on the proposed criteria, the LAB evaluated the project proposals and gave the following grades:

- 0 not acceptable
- 1 poor, weak
- 2 fair, average
- 3 good
- 4 excellent

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1.	L15591	7.000	Nisava – My River	The project is an educative campaign that targets citizens and local authorities and introduces the target groups with consequences of phosphate presence in the water ecosystems. A campaign for citizens was conducted through educative leaflets, posters, lectures in elementary schools as well as electronic public promotions. Multimedia presentation for local authorities promoted the legal regulations.
2.	L15592	15.000	Organic agriculture – a step forward to protect Danube basin	The main activities of the project are directed towards reduction of using chemicals in conventional agriculture and food production channel. This project is follow up of another project supported last year under DRP, which promotes the organic agriculture as an alternative for Danube river basin water protection from chemicals pollutants. Project included several activities such as campaigns, education, lobbying and monitoring of soil and water.
3.	L15593	9.000	Waste Water Treatment in the Rural Households	River Zapadna Morava flew through Čačak Municipality territory. River Zapadna Morava is a part of Danube River Basin. Čačak Municipality doesn't have a drainage system of waste waters on the village area. Čačak Municipality LEAP document identified the following environmental problems: - The danger of polluting water ways and accumulators from the large quantities of pollutants in Čačak Municipality.

				<p>- Insufficiently developed environmental awareness in Čačak Municipality.</p> <p>- Threat to principle of sustainable development of different types of ecosystems in the territory of Čačak Municipality.</p> <p>Huge number of septic holes especially where is difficult to build drainage system is quite a big problem in Čačak Municipality. That makes a burden for underground waters and soil. Solution is in using new microbiological technologies, which are environmental friendly and more sustainable. General project objectives are: 1. to stimulate Čačak Municipality LEAP document implementation, 2. to improve rural waste water treatment based on good practice examples, 3. Rising awareness of local actors from rural area. This project is addressed primary to the inhabitants of the rural area, but beneficiaries are also local authorities, NGOs, faculties, public enterprises and institutions.</p>
4.	L15594	12.000	Promotion of Best Available Techniques with applying alternative industrial waste water treatment methods which enable efficient elimination of nutrients and toxic matters from intensive farming and food production sectors	The basic project goal is public and industrial sector awareness rising on the problems of the water pollution of the Hydro System Nadel (HSN), aiming to reduce nutrients and toxics.
5.	L15595	7.000	Campaign “Used Motor Oil should not become our Nightmare”	The project aimed at identifying generators of used oil and to publish information based on quantitative dates of used oil as well. During the project's campaign, leaflets, brochures and media exposure were used as platform for disseminating information to the general public on issues related to: the current improper practices in handling, storing and treatment of used oils, negative impact of the mentioned improper practices on the environment, the relevant EU directives, National Waste Management Strategy and draft National Environmental Strategy and UNDP (GEF) activities. The final project's activities included organizing a round table discussion, with participants from relevant representatives from local and state governments, NGOs and industry.

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Grants monitoring

After Phase Reports were submitted in June 2006 (Project L15591 was submitted in July because the implementation period was limited to 9 months and the project implementation started later), all of them were approved by August 10th 2006, and the last instalment was transferred in September 2006.

Grant manager and Project officer from CO Serbia monitored the grants, in close communication with the grantees by phone and e-mail, and assisted Midterm reports preparation and commenting. The site visits took place mostly in September/October 2006, when results were available and visible.

Project officer Ms. Aleksandra Mladenovic pursued monitoring mission to NGO Association of Mountaineers Kablar, Cacak on May 22nd, and visited both proposed sites where the project is implemented. All of the granted NGOs communicated to CO Serbia regularly on the progress in the project implementation.

Projects were implemented according to the plan, and there were no problems during the implementation.

All organizations submitted Final Reports.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

No	Award No	Amount awarded	NGO information	Project title	Environmental Topic	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION Final Report
1	L15591	7.000	Eko Eho	Nisava – My River	urban waste-water collection and treatment	Phase Report was submitted after the deadline and after a reminder was sent. Final Report was submitted on time.
2	L15592	15.000	TERRAS Organic Food Association,	Organic agriculture – a step	Promotion of eco-farming methods and alternative	Phase Report and Final Report were submitted on time and approved; last

			Subotica	forward to protect Danube basin	rural development.	instalment was paid.
3	L15593	9.000	Association of Mountaineers Kablar, Cacak	Waste Water Treatment in the Rural Households	Household waste management	Phase Report was submitted in the beginning of July; approved immediately without corrections; second instalment paid. Final report was submitted on time and approved; last instalment was paid.
4	L15594	12.000	Initiative for Democratic Transition (DTI)	Promotion of Best Available Techniques with alternative industrial waste water treatment methods which enable efficient elimination of nutrients and toxic matters from intensive farming and food production sectors	Promotion of the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.	Phase Report was submitted in the beginning of July; revised and commented by the CO, revised report was approved. Final report was submitted on time and approved; last instalment was paid.
5	L15595	7.000	Union of Ecologists UNECO, Regional Center Paracin	Campaign <i>Used Motor Oil should not become our Nightmare</i>	Alternative treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.	Phase Report was submitted in the beginning of July; revised and commented by the CO, revised report was approved. Final report was submitted on time and approved; last instalment was paid.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
TERRAS	Reducing	Increasing of	-Data Base created-register	- Reduced

<p>Organic Food Association, Subotica</p> <p>L15592</p> <p>One National project contribute to the application of best agricultural practices through promotion of eco-farming methods and alternative rural development</p>	<p>nutrients in the Danube river basin by promoting organic agriculture, changing peoples approach to the agriculture production, develop organic agriculture in order to improve better protection of environment</p>	<p>organic agricultural area, Development of data base of organic producers, According to water and soil quality data, direct reduction of nutrients will be visible, at least in two municipalities: Subotica and Becej.</p>	<p>of 81 agricultural producers interested in organic production from Belo Blato, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Becej and Novi Sad. Twelve of them decided to start organic production, and four of them immediatelly turned to OCS. (an area of 582 ha belongs to agricultural producers interested in switching to organic production, out of which 30 ha has already started the transition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 300 manuals „Organic agriculture – legal framework”, 1000 leaflets, two TV movies (in Serbian and Hungarian), 10 radio shows, 2 raio and 2 TV jingls (in Serbian and Hungarian), - 600 visits to web page per month in average - 7 new members of Association TERRA’S - 240 of calls and visits asking for consultations <p>Web page -www.terras.org.yu (with reports, news, announcements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reoprt on water quality of Danube, Tisa, Paličko and Ludaško Lake. <p>-published press articles</p>	<p>amount of pollutants in soil and water</p> <p>-TERRA’S</p> <p>Close co-operation with farmers and local municipalities</p>
<p>Initiative for Democratic Transition (DTI)</p> <p>L15594</p> <p>National project contributing to the promotion of the best available technology, reporting of requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management</p>	<p>Awareness rising of the wider public and industrial sector in the sub-basin on problems of water pollution in Hydro System Nadel, reduction of the pollution with nutrients and toxic matters.</p>	<p>Communication establishing with competent authorities for the HSN management: industry, Public enterprise “Tamis-Dunav”, NGOs CEBI and DTI, Primary school “Branko Radicevic”, Sector of industry include NGO and public in decision making process and they</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collected information on the water quality of hydro system Nadel; report about dynamics of water quality changes produced, - Preparation, printing and dissemination of publication: “Guide for reduction nutrient-pollution reduction with active public participation” -poster “Protect our Waters”, leaflets - workshop for stakeholders organized - 10 media representatives participated in campaign, -120 students and 6 teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Close cooperation among local stakeholders -Cooperation with TV and local radio-station

systems.		cooperate in joint activities toward pollution reduction.	went through training, - Project web site, Photo-gallery on project activities - Info material distributed: posters, leaflets, - One press conference	
Union of Ecologists UNECO, Regional Center Paracin L15595 One National project is addressed to the (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.	Awareness rising on negative impact of used oil on the environment, Promoted best available techniques for sustainable storing of used oil, review of legal documents related to problem with used oil.	Collected data related to number of vehicles: 200 questionnaires disseminate among different profiles and ages, water and soil quality existed data analyses, communication strategy developed, GPS identification of 30 location of generators used oil, 30 questionnaires analyzed and compiled into GIS	-Promo material was produced and distributed: -3000 leaflets -200 bulletins -500 holders -100 caps -40 T-shirts -400 stickers -2 billboards -Round table organized for 30 participants -WEB site up-to-date	-Ministry started a project with «Ekorec» from Popovac and started working on legislation -Cooperation with local media providers
Eko eho L15591 National project is addressed on household waste management, in terms of the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.	Citizens and local authorities informed about consequences of phosphate presence in the water ecosystems	Improvement of the river Nisava quality, initiative for introducing law regulation started,	-Promo material was produced and distributed: -15000 leaflets -250 posters -150 T-shirts -Participation in 10 TV and radio programs -200 CDs with information on the project and the issue of reduction of the use of conventional detergents -3 Multimedia presentation for local community -one press conference - web site (www.ekoeho.org) - 5 radio shows “Eko eho” - one interview with expert for water chemistry - 4 newspaper articles (in Narodne novine, Večernje novosti, Narodne novine, Večernje novosti) - 15 reports in e-medias	- Promoted cooperation among different stakeholders in order to protect local environment -Disseminated promo materials among citizens -Updated Web-site

<p>Association of Mountaineers Kablar, Cacak L15593</p> <p>One National Project is addressed on urban wastewater collection and treatment.</p>	<p>Total implementation of Cacak municipality LEAP document, Conditions for reduction of waste waters pollution from rural area established. Solution for problem of waste water treatment in rural area.</p>	<p>Microbiology way of waste water cleaning applied into two different places-lagoons: one lagoon placed in active farm and one lagoon built for mountain house. Nutrient and toxic release from diffuse and point water pollution sources decreased on whole Cacak municipality area</p>	<p>- Two waste water treatment tanks installed, that use microbiological method for waste water treatment (aerobic bacterial cultures), -public presentation (48 participants) and local press releases, reports on two TV stations and two Radio stations, -2000 leaflets -Workshop “in situ” for 30 participants</p>	<p>-Good cooperation established with Public Health Institute of Cacak Municipality (that monitors lagoons’ functioning) -Good cooperation with media -Joint activities with Cacak Municipality, Department for environmental protection</p>
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Taking into account direct impact on nutrient reduction regarding Agriculture discharge topic, the most important and concrete impacts of the project on nutrient reduction in the Danube river basin are increasing of organic agricultural area at least in two municipalities: Subotica and Becej and creation of data base-register of **81** agricultural producers interested in organic production from Belo Blato, Sremska Mitrovica, Subotica, Bečej and Novi Sad. By this it is possible to expect reduction of amount of pollutants in soil and water.

The main achievement of the national project which contributes to the promotion of the best available technology was raising awareness of the wider public and industrial sector together in the sub-basin on problems of water pollution in Hydro System Nadel (HSN). Communication establishing with competent authorities for the HSN management, such as: industry, Public enterprise “Tamis-Dunav”, NGOs CEBI and DTI, Primary school “Branko Radicevic”, as well preparation, printing and dissemination of publication: “Guide for reduction nutrient-pollution reduction with active public participation” resulted in joint activities toward pollution reduction. It is important to note that sector of industry include NGO and public in decision making process, in order to establish cooperation in reduction of the pollution with nutrients and toxic matters.

Project which was addressed to the alternative treatment methods and practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substance from the environment can serve as good practice regarding follow up activities. Some of the activities, such as promotion of the best available techniques for sustainable storing of used oil, campaign leaded by school children, review of legal documents related to problem with used oil, resulted in communication strategy development, GPS identification of 30 location of generators used oil, as well 30 questionnaires analyzed and compiled into GIS. Ministry of science and environment of Serbia recognized this problem as priority and in the mean time prepared and co-finance project with «Ekorec» from Popovac which is addressed on legislation development in this topic. It is possible to say that by this project and activities of this NGO such reaction and interest was initiated.

National project which has been addressed on household waste management, took into account reduction of the use of conventional detergents. Citizens and local authorities were informed about consequences of phosphate presence in the water ecosystems through media, campaigns, leaflets dissemination, but most important result was started initiative for introducing law regulation. City of Nis is second town in Serbia by size, and it was very important to establish cooperation among different stakeholders, first of all among citizens and local authorities, in order to protect local environment, especially improvement of the river Nisava quality. In a few meeting between NGO representatives and main officials from the City Hall, these activities were recognized as very important public participation in decision making process and cooperation in joint activities toward pollution reduction was announced.

Project that was addressed on urban waste-water collection and treatment was carried out total implementation of Cacak municipality LEAP document, as its first task, but not the least establishing conditions for reduction of waste waters pollution from rural area. Great solution for problem of waste water treatment in rural area Municipality Cacak recognized as one of the priorities, which resulted in joint activities between Cacak Municipality, Department for environmental protection and NGO (financial co-financing and expert enrolment). Very concrete results were installations of two waste water treatment tanks, with complete documentations, licences and permits, which use microbiological method for waste water treatment (aerobic bacterial cultures). Good cooperation established with Public Health Institute of Cacak Municipality, which is responsible for monitoring of lagoons' functioning, and good cooperation with media, which covered all phases of this huge project.

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

- Ministry for Agriculture, Forest and Water Management – 1
- Ministry of science and environmental protection - 1
- Local communities / municipalities, protected area authorities- at least 20.
- Water facility companies - 2
- Local farmers - 50
- NGOs - 20.
- General public (especially schools children) - 2000
- Schools – 15
- Media – 10
- Universities - 1

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media.
- Lobbying and campaigning.
- Public participation.
- Environmental education and training.
- Networking and partnerships.
- Interactive case projects.
- Monitoring.
- Research.

NGOs have developed own ways of implementation of these tools, in accordance with specific “in situ” situation. Anyway, they are good organized with many participants volunteers who are in charge with promo material dissemination. They use public places and usually local media for that purpose, and lobbying and campaigning as well. Public participation is included in case of many discussions on real problem in their environment, but the best experience is finding in organizing public discussion among local authorities and local people. Environmental trainings, meeting and seminars are organizing in order to inform public about achievements and present situation related to problem recognized. Lecturers are usually experts in the field determined by projects. The best practice is in establishing networking and partnerships among different stakeholders, either among subjects who are in charge for project implementations or among project beneficiaries. Monitoring and research are recognized only as helping tools for achievement of final scope.

Media coverage:

The projects are presented at local or national level through information leaflets, posters, publications, TV and Radio spots, TV films, manual and press releases. Most of the projects co-operate with TV and broadcasting media on promotion of project activities. Dissemination of leaflets is done by NGOs themselves and voluntaries in co-operation with local municipalities, farmers associations, public institutions and protected areas authorities.

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Waste Water Treatment in the Rural Households
Project goals	Reduction of water pollution in rural areas, sustainable solution for waste water treatment, LEAP implementation in totally, Reduction of nutrient and toxic release from diffuse and point water pollution sources in Cacak municipality
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	New microbiology technologies used in this project provide safely and sustainable way on waste water treatment in rural area at least. Microbiology culture demolishes organic pollutants and eliminates mesophil and coliform micro-organism, decreasing HPK I BPK5 in waste water. This pilot project should be used for similar project related to waste water treatment not only in rural areas.
Range and involvement of stakeholders	<p>Farmers</p> <p>Local municipality</p> <p>Local action groups</p> <p>NGO</p> <p>Institute for health protection</p>
Measurable and concrete outcomes of the project	Two waste water treatment lagoons installed and put into force. They continued working after the end of the project period, as legal objects and part of household and mountain house. All technical documentation is provided and owners of the locations where lagoons are placed are responsible for their sustainability. Public Health Institute of Cacak Municipality monitors lagoons' functioning.

Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REC Country Office: Slovakia

Amount of Grant Fund: 50 000 USD

Amount Awarded: 50 000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 6

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

REC Country Office Slovakia announced Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grants Programme in Slovakia in August 2005. In Slovakia, total 50,000 USD are available for projects of environmental NGO's focused on nutrients and toxic substances reduction in the Danube River basin. REC Country Office Slovakia received 11 project ideas from environmental NGOs for the first round of DRP National Grants Programme. The deadline for submitting project ideas (concept papers) in the first round was September 30, 2005. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) consisted of DEF National Focal Point (Daphne) representative, ICPDR representative and REC Country Office Slovakia managers. The committee meeting was held on November 8, 2005 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Each member of the Project Advisory Committee evaluated project ideas according to DRP National Grants Programme guidelines. Final scores were considered and each project idea assessed individually. The committee selected 9 project ideas for the DRP National Grants Programme second round. Project leaders of selected NGOs were asked to prepare full project proposals. The deadline for full project proposals in the DRP National Grants Programme second round was December 22, 2005.

Selected NGOs from the first round submitted to the REC Country Office 8 full project proposals in the second round of the Danube Regional Project (DRP) National Grants Programme. One NGO – SOVS did not submit full proposals even SOVS was addressed. REC Local Advisory Board and ICPDR representative selected full project proposals on January 24, 2006 in Bratislava. ICPDR (MoE SR) representative did not attend the meeting, however, submitted scoring. Each member of the Project Advisory Committee scored full proposals according to DRP National Grants Programme guidelines and criteria. The committee awarded 6 project proposals with the total amount of 50,000 USD. In addition to that REC Country Office Slovakia organized “winners’ meeting” on January 31, 2006 at which the project leaders presented the project and met the other winners. Before the winners meeting REC Slovakia organized press conference in the House of Journalists.



Picture from Press conference with media (journalists, radio Slovakia and Slovak National TV). The even was broadcasted the same day in Slovak radio and the next day in Slovak TV at 6:40 pm.

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
NDG 05 001	9 000 USD	Future without toxic pollution in Danube basin	Project focusing to decrease polluting Danube basin in Sala region and Dubnica town with persistent organic pollutants: include endangered public into decision making process, giving help, monitoring, research about toxic ash management, increase public awareness in environment pollution with POPs, work with mass media, lobbying, support motivation for elimination illegal home waste burning, environmental education
NDG 05 004	9 000 USD	Waters of Kysuce	The project handle activation of streams managers, municipalities, public and youth for improving and holding quality of water in the Kysuca river basin, which is attacking with anthropogenic impacts concerning to high residential density
NDG 05 005	9 800 USD	“Streams Are Not DRAINS II. !	The project follows up the previous activities of the projects “Expedition of Liptov” and “Streams Are Not Drains!”. It is aimed at the reducing of the pollution in Tatras region (Liptov, Spiš, Horehronie) through the implementation of practical, educational and repressive measures. The project includes 6 activities which involve the participation of 4 schools, Centre of Environmental Activities (CEA) – Trenčín, Slovak Environmental Inspection - Žilina and Slovak Water Management State Company, Váh River Basin Management - Ružomberok.
NDG 05 006	7 200 USD	Revitalization of Čiližský	The aim of this project is public participation to

		potok catchments such as common design of The Danube River Coalition partners. River programs.	reduction of water contamination by nutrients and toxic substances. Applied methods are simple monitoring (monitoring groups observe some indicative species and measure amount of nutrients), public presentations and excursions.
NDG 05 007	8 000 USD	Conservation and restoration of habitats in Danube inland delta	Main project actions are: involvement in the preparation and implementation of official forest management plans, designation of new/ enlargement of protected areas, awareness raising – printing of brochure, and cooperation with stakeholders.
NDG 05 008	7 000 USD	Nitrogen removing and renewal of the communication in Zitava River Basin	The main aspect is to begin and to coordinate the communication between state administration, citizens, municipalities, NGOs – the themes will be – pollution of water, identification of the causes and effects, protection and importance of the natural localities as nutrient filters. The last part of the lower reach and the dead river channels of Zitava river are filling up with sediments and polluted by industrial and incorrect waste management – stop the pollution, erosion in the chosen localities and manage filter wetland habitat.

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the project:

Agriculture discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substance pollution
- Promote production (and use) of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like the reduction of the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban waste-water collection and treatment.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

CO Slovakia prepared “CP winners meeting” on November 11th, 2005 at which we presented instructions to preparing the Full proposal.

On January 31st, 2006 we organized “winners meeting” during which were all project leaders presented projects details. During the meeting project leaders (PLs) received concrete instructions how to manage project and how to communicate with the REC Slovakia. At the same time PLs received information that projects will be monitored during the period of implementation. Financial manager monitored and was in contact with grantees on a regular way. Unclear items were solved on-line - by phone, email or in person.

REC Slovakia visited 2 NGOs: NDG 05 007, BROZ “Conservation and restoration of habitats in Danube inland delta“ and NDG 05 004, SZOPK “Waters of Kysuce” in October 2006. Moreover Mr. Alexander Zinke performed the audit of 4 Slovakian projects in September 2006 – BROZ, Bohatska sanca, UMBRA and Friends of the Earth. During this monitoring visit Mr. Michal Deraj, project manager. REC Slovakia described to Mr. Zinke the process of all activities organized by the REC Slovakia which included process of announcement of the grants program, distribution of manual, evaluation criteria preparation for grants committee, two round selections of proposals, award agreements, training for grantees, monitoring, etc.

The deadline for submission of the progress reports was July 6th 2006. We received all complete reports till July 12th 2006, because some NGOs made some mistakes. All the reports were reviewed and approved.

The deadline for submission of the final reports was January 15th 2007. We received all reports in time. One report (Civic association Tatry) was delivered already in December 2006. The other reports had some mistakes or missing documents. We communicated with grantees and 5 completed reports we received till the end of February. One NGO (Bohatska sanca, civic association) still didn't send complete documentation for finance report due to the very long inoperability of their grant manager. They promise to send all documents till 15th April 2007. All reports except Bohatska sanca, civic association were reviewed and approved. The expenses were appropriate.

Two NGOs (Civic association UMBRA and Slovak union of nature and landscape protectors, regional board Cadca) asked for reallocation of costs, these reallocations were approved.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Overall results and impacts:

- During the project implementation great emphasize was placed on the cooperation with public – with local governments, citizens, especially with youth – big gain for environmental education – in 5 projects out of 6 awarded, NGOs closely collaborated with public and representatives of self-government, in two projects the work aimed at schoolchildren (project Waters of Kysuce and project Streams are not drains II.)
- During the project implementation it was created and distributed a mass of promotion materials, leaflets, publications, brochures to different stakeholders and broad public
- Especially school youth participated by revitalization activities (in 2 projects – Waters of Kysuce and Revitalization of Cilizsky potok catchments such us common design of the Danube river coalition partners. River programs.)
- NGOs stressed lobbying – one NGO (Friend of the Earth) lobbied in Brussels to members of European Parliament
- The greatest success - NGO Friend of the Earth Slovakia halted the plan for the construction of a hazardous waste incineration plant in town Sala

Results and approaches		List of indicators	
<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Promotion of the production and use	educational and promotional	a leaflet “Bio – non-bio” (15 000 pieces), a leaflet “How Not To Harm a River”	Materials were disseminated to District Environmental

of phosphate-free detergents.	campaign aimed at the change of consumers' behaviour – issuing the leaflet, internet campaign	(15 000 pieces), a leaflet “We Are Not Afraid To Look at Dumps Straight!”(6 000 pieces), a leaflet “Do not Separate Yourself! Separate with Us” (10 000 pieces). In terms of the campaign “Streams Are Not Drains!”, the 8-month competition serial “In the Track of Frodo” was published on the web page www.biospotrebitel.sk . The object web page was visited by approximately 200 000 visitors in the relevant period.	Authorities in Liptovský Mikuláš and Ružomberok, municipalities, civic associations participating, monitoring groups, citizens of Liptovský Mikuláš and its suburbs, people interested during 6 information stands, tour of the exhibition Bio – Non-bio, seminars, etc.
Promotion of eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.	implementation of the exhibition “Bio – nebio” (Bio – Non-bio) in Tatras region, consumers' competition devoted to the bio production, presence in media, implementation of interactive programmes for pupils and students of elementary and secondary schools	Installing the exhibition Bio – Non-bio 9 times in Tatra region. Implementation 56 interactive programmes Bio – Non-bio (647 participants) and “Fair trade” (652 participants) for elementary and secondary schools. Implementation 2 special field trips aimed at the preparation of volunteers – “Land for People – People for Land”, “Interpretation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage” and 2 special seminars – “How to Look at Land”, “Management of Little Projects”.	more intensive co-operation between CA TATRÝ and CEA Trenčín, informing the public – presence in media
Promotion of conservation and revitalization of land.	implementation of the revitalization camp in the Spiš model region	Two revitalization camps were prepared in the region of Spiš – “Oľšavica 2006” (50 participants), “Hrabušice 2006” (34 participants).	model example of the revitalization of agricultural land
The change in communal waste treatment	monitoring of load capacity of the environment (illegal dumps, discharge of dung water ...) in Tatras region and ensure the legal status, implementation of seminars ““River as a living being”, promotion of the activities of monitoring groups on the rivers of northern Slovakia	the work of 7 monitoring groups (140 young people) on the rivers of the north part of Slovakia in 2006 (Joint Secondary School – Bardejov, Elementary School – Liptovská Teplička, Elementary School in the street of Ing. Kožuch – Spišská Nová Ves, Elementary School Letná – Poprad, Joint Secondary School – Liptovský Mikuláš, Grammar School of P. O. Hviezdoslav – Kežmarok, Grammar School of P. O. Hviezdoslav – Dolný Kubín). There is a perspective to continue in monitoring in 2007 as well. Implementation of 3 seminars “River as a Living Being” for 84 participants. 4 active groups were given a “little grant” which enabled them to implement their own activities to improve the quality of water streams in immediate surroundings successfully. Training monitoring groups at the Grammar School of Anton Bernolák in Námestovo (7 people) and at the Grammar School in Tvrdošín (18 people). They committed themselves to monitor the environmental loads in the districts of Námestovo (24 cadastres) and Tvrdošín (15 cadastres). NGO gave the groups 3 500,- SKK to pay their travelling expenses.	co-operation between the non-governmental organization and state administration in solving the negative load capacity of the environment in the region, exerting the pressure to gain legal behaviour, seminars – initialization of forming new action groups

		More than 150 incentives were given to municipality, state administration, Slovak Environmental Inspection and to the Presidium of Constabulary in Bratislava during the monitoring of illegal dumps, invasive plants and contravening the Water Act (164 days in the field per a person).	
Water quality monitoring	Research of wetlands Disposal of dumps in streams	Monitoring was realised in two basic schools and in one university	Students were involved in water quality assessment - control, they build their environmental responsibility
Environmental education	Revitalization and adoption of springs	- 8 lectures for students (preferred themes was "Natural attributes of Čiližský potok catchment" and "Contamination of Čiližský potok" - 3 excursions to Čiližský potok - e-learning course - "Mayors" seminar - presentation results of our activities, planning next activities - study material to monitoring - 5 different posters	- environmental information - building the environmental responsibility
Small revitalisation activities	Small revitalisation activities	- 2 times was eliminated non legal dumps near water (summary about 20 m ³ of municipal waste) - 1 time was eliminated invasive vegetation with biomass take away	Eliminating the source of contamination and expansion of invasive vegetation, which producing high quantum of biomass (nutrient reduction). Revitalisation activities was realised with cooperation of local volunteers.
The farmers did converted the grasslands and arable soils and the skiving was realized 4 times in months – Jun, July, August and September Renewal of the traditional farming (cutting of the meadows, renewal of the pasture land). Stop of the erosion around area.	It was been remove of biomass by the farmers, the direct nitrogen was decreased in the Zitava river Basin	- 1 farmer - 4 E-NGOs - 10 municipalities - 7 ha of maintained grassland	- Quality of cooperation with farmers, and other stakeholders has been on very good level - Media coverage – informing about project and activities of project (about seminary, measuring) - Habitat quality for birds
Communication with most important polluters	It was been realized the measuring of pollution in the surface waters – we did monitor the progress of pollution.	Measuring of nitrogen's, nitrates, phosphates, oxygen and other matters. The measuring was been realized on fifth localities and the amount of measuring on individual places – minimum 4 and maximum 7 times. The value of the individual matters has been different on depending from place of quartering the water.	Accomplished the activities of projects The quality of cooperation with state water authority about measuring The co-operations with municipalities - removal illegal dumps by the form the agreement of cooperation. That was been realized through the unemployed citizens within the public benefit works.
Environmental and naturalistic knowledge about	We know the status of indicator organisms and the	Co-operation of agreement with state water authority it was been matured the environmental	Quality of cooperation with state water authority and nature conservancy authority

<p>project area – for example: Seminary about River of Zitava – there were presented the project – the results, activities and others and there were the lecturers from fields of water management , the hydrometeorology department, experts from field of this problematic, negotiant of municipalities and others</p>	<p>sources of pollution in the ground and /or surface waters The feasible sources of pollution can be the industrial manufactory to inhabit near the river, sewage tank, the agricultural farming ...</p>	<p>and naturalistic study, which includes indicator organisms, the analyses of negative events and 25 GIS points with environmental data Including also – the parts of Botany, Ornithology, Ichthyology, Geography</p>	<p>Media coverage – the state television, the regional periodicals published the articles about project and its activities</p>
<p>Reduce future toxic (include Danube basin river) pollution from biggest hazardous waste incinerator in Slovakia – in Sala town – by stopped this bad project</p>	<p>NGO halted the plan for the construction of a hazardous waste incineration plant in Sala</p>	<p>They stooped the plan to import and burn 109 000 tons of hazardous waste in cement mill in Rohoznik</p>	<p>Writing technical comments, discussed, with Ministry of environment, cooperated with local citizens and involved them to decision Creating systemic toll for long-term change ensuring – “waste watch” Contributing for improvement of toxic ash disposal from smaller company hazardous waste incineration plant of Duslo Sala a bit – within the reconstruction project annotating, through the increasing of awareness about requirement of the most strict environmental steps at ash disposal</p>
<p>Public informed ness and awareness improvement</p>		<p>Seminar about environmentally friendly waste disposal as a prevention of water flows and environment pollution. It was run from 12. to 13. December in Trencianske Teplice. 76 representatives of municipalities and state administration were participating, 2 experts were giving lectures (1 from the Czech republic) about prevention of water flows and environment pollution. 2 press conferences, 14 press releases, 79 articles, reports and interviews on this topic in media 2 monitoring of toxic matters in food and products from plants which burn hazardous waste. These analyses helped to river polluters, media and public on still actual problem with toxic chemicals pollution and make press for cleaner alternatives development.</p>	<p>Contributing for the reduction of illegal landfills production close to the rivers of Danube basin through the public information improvement in Sala and Trencin city and its surroundings, Rohoznik, Solosnica and other towns with large informational actions during many days around the Slovakia</p>
<p>Helping to other NGOs at lobbying for positive changes in an amendment of Waste Framework</p>	<p>NGO reached some partial but quite important successes with some other colleagues from</p>		<p>During the project it was lobbied to improve controversial European Commissions proposal for amendment of WFD by writing letters and commenting documents</p>

Directive	European NGOs – for example enforcing some specific targets and measures for prevention, restriction of reclassification of incineration plants.		to members of European Parliament, personally lobbying in Brussels, at Ministry of Environment of Slovak republic.
Protection of natural floodplain forests			New forest management plan for LHC Rusovce has been approved. This represents very progressive and advanced FMP, respecting principles of sustainable forest management. Most of the nature conservation requirements have been accepted and incorporated into the plan. Non native tree species will be replaced by autochthonous trees and natural habitats will be restored. Softer forest management methods have been applied.
Raised public awareness – printing bilingual brochure in Slovak and Hungarian language		2500 pcs of brochure	Celebratory event was organised to promote the success of nature conservation in long-term lease of the Velkolelsky ostrov site and to introduce plans to the local community and in the region – very successful event attracted much media attention

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

- Volunteers – approximately 70
- “networking” youth monitoring groups on the rivers of northern Slovakia – 7 groups (approximately 140 pupils)
- Slovak Environmental Inspection – Zilina
- District Authority for Environment in Liptovsky Mikulas
- District Authority for Environment in Ruzomberok
- Slovak Water Management State Company, Vah River Basin Management Ruzomberok
- Centre of Environmental Activities Trencin
- 12 schools
- 10 tourist divisions
- Regional organizations of Slovak union of nature and landscape protectors
- Regional weekly Kysuce
- ALCEDO, association for nature and landscape
- PLA Kysuce
- Municipal office – Cilizska Radvan,
- Water Management Corporation
- Basin school in Cilizska Radvan (Hungarian language teaching)
- Basin school in Gabcikovo (Slovak language teaching)
- Municipal authority Sala
- Slovak Health University
- Forests of the Slovak republic
- Forest administrations Gabcikovo
- Forest administrations Sladkovicovo
- State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak republic – administration of the PLA Danube floodplains, regional administration of nature and landscape protection Bratislava

- Municipalities Cunovo, Cicov, Zlatna na Ostrove
- Slovak land fund, regional branch Komarno
- Slovak water management enterprise, branch Dunaj
- Bratislava Water Company
- National park Donau-Auen, Austria

Tools

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media
 - 4 reports, articles on web page www.zitava.sk and in regional periodicals
 - 8-month competition serial “In the track of Frodo” was published on the web page www.biospotrebiteľ.sk
 - information campaign in weekly periodical Kysuce within the cycle The year of water in Kysuce contributed to the awareness of citizens about the importance of water resources and the need for their protection
 - 2 press conferences to topic of environmentally friendly waste disposal as a prevention of water flows and environment pollution and 14 press releases, 79 articles, reports and interviews on this topic in media
- Lobbying and campaigning.
 - official discussion with state water authority and state nature conservancy authority
 - more than 150 incentives were given to municipality, state administration, Slovak Environmental Inspection and to the Presidium of Constabulary in Bratislava during the monitoring of illegal dumps, invasive plants and contravening the Water Act
 - writing technical comments, discussion with Ministry of environment
 - lobbying to improve EC proposal for amendment of WFD by writing letters and commenting documents to members of EP, personally lobbying in Brussels
 - lobbying the regional environmental office for designation/enlargement of protected areas – phone calls, personal meetings, official written request for information
- Public participation.
 - school youth was engaged into caring of small water sources – wells, which they have adopted for permanent care
 - cooperation with local citizens by halting the plan for the construction of a hazardous waste incineration plant in Sala
 - contribution for the reduction of illegal landfills production close to the rivers of Danube basin through the public information improvement in Sala and Trencin city and its surroundings, Rohoznik, Solosnica and other towns with large informational actions
 - in region Sala and surrounding creating systemic tool for long-term change ensuring – “waste watch”
- Environmental education and training.
 - training course to water-pollution measuring with mall chemical laboratories Aquamerck
 - 56 interactive programmes for pupils and students from elementary and secondary schools
 - 2 revitalization camps were prepared in the region of Spis
 - seminary about environmentally friendly waste disposal as a prevention of water flows and environment pollution – 76 representatives of municipalities and state administration were participating, 2 experts were giving lectures about prevention of water flows and environment pollution
- Networking and partnerships.
 - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republik, state water authority – Slovensky vodohospodarsky podnik, NGOs – UMBRA, SONS, FONTIS, SOSNA and Family farm Masek mill
 - Regional conference of experts about protection and exploitation of water resources within the Kysuca river-basin brought many concrete information, which were published in a separate publication and provide the possibility to utilisation them in praxis.
 - Helping to other NGOs at lobbying for positive changes in an amendment of WFD
- Interactive case projects.
 - 7 ha restoration and maintain of the new meadow
- Monitoring.

- monitoring groups at the Grammar School of Anton Bernolák in Námestovo and at the Grammar School in Tvrdošín . They committed themselves to monitor the environmental loads in the districts of Námestovo and Tvrdošín.
- 2 monitoring of toxic matters in food and products from plants which burn hazardous waste
- Research.
 - environmental and naturalist study – indicator organism study, analyses of negative events
 - research of wetlands was the beginning of monitoring after their inclusion into the network of protected nature creations

Media coverage:

- in terms of the campaign “Streams are not drains!” the 8-month competition serial “In the track of Frodo” was published on the web page www.biospotrebiteľ.sk. The object web page was visited by approximately 200 000 visitors in the relevant period
- serial of contributions with a theme of water, water resources, water economy and protection, which were published on 9 thematic pages in regional weekly periodical Kysuce, with the circulation 14 000
- publication of regional conference within which were included also short news about the realisation of whole project, was published with the circulation 500 prints and was distributed to all relevant addresses within the region and a part also outside the region
- publishing on webpage www.zitava.sk. This webpage is official web the partner organization FONTIS and informal public group Zitavský luh and in regional periodicals and local newspaper. The one article – local newspaper Nase Vrabce, two – in regional periodical – Nitrianske noviny and one on web page – www.zitava.sk.
- publications on web – www.spz.sk
- preparing and realize big action for mass media to publish result of toxic POPs monitoring in food, 80 interviews and articles in TV, radio and newspapers in Slovakia

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Future without toxic pollution in Danube basin
Project goals	Decrease toxic pollution (POPs) in part of Danube basin, around Sala and Dubnica towns
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	<p>1. NGO stopped plan build new biggest hazardous waste incinerator in Slovakia in Šaľa (30000 ton HW per year), which means reducing future toxic (include Danube basin river) pollution by POPs.</p> <p>2. Decrease toxic pollution (include Danube basin river) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase knowledge, awareness by publishing result form toxic POPs monitoring, and sending publications, information for state authorities - press to Duslo Šaľa by annotate their project “reconstruction old hazardous waste incinerator” (for minimising POPs pollution – realise BAT technology) and publishing information by mass media
Range and involvement of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipal authorities Šaľa - Duslo Šaľa a.s. - Slovak Reference Center for Dioxins and similar pollutants, Slovak Health University, Bratislava - Ministry of environment Slovakia - All other state offices for environment - Local NGO “Eco-team” from Rohožník - Slovak Members of European Parliament - More than 20 city where working waste incinerators, in Slovakia
Measurable and concrete	- Stopped plan build new biggest hazardous waste incinerator in Slovakia in

<p>outcomes of the project</p>	<p>Šaľa !</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realising monitoring toxic POPs pollutants near Váh river (Danube basin) and showing that in food (eggs) in Šaľa have more than 2 time higher concentration of toxic dioxin and PCB than Slovak state and EU limit – which create press for local chemical plant for decreasing pollution - increasing public awareness by 8 press release, 80 articles and interviews in mass media - 1 annotate to project reconstruction old hazardous waste incinerator in Duslo Šaľa - 1 case study about bad management with toxic ash from Duslo Šaľa old waste incinerator - 4 letters for Ministry of Environment and Slovak MEPs and 1 lobbying in Brussels about changing bad European Commission proposal for new Framework Waste Directive (danger with waste import).
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Danube Regional Project (Second Round)

National Grants

COUNTRY NARRATIVE FINAL REPORT

REC Country Office: SLOVENIA

Amount of Grant Fund: 40.000 USD

Amount Disbursed: 40.000 USD

Number of NGOs supported: 4

REPORT OF GRANTING SELECTION

REC CO Slovenia **announced** the Call for Tender on **August 26th 2005**. Information about the CfT was sent directly to all environmental NGOs in REC CO database (120 addresses), it was published on CO Slovenia web site, and distributed to electronic Eco News network.

Call for Tender documentation was available on line as well as in paper form in the REC CO Slovenia. CO was providing assistance to the interested applicants in project proposal preparation till the **deadline for submission of concept papers**, which was **September 30th 2005**. Up to the deadline REC CO Slovenia received **eight (8) concept papers**. After conformity checking was done, the list of gathered applications was prepared and the Evaluation Panel nominated. Mr. Mitja Bricelj, ICPDR representative, and Mr. Milan Vogrin, DEF representative were involved.

First phase evaluation process:

In the first phase evaluation process, all received concept papers (8) were evaluated by ICPDR and DEF representatives, as well as by the CO staff. The **evaluation meeting** was held on **October 19th 2005**.

Seven (7) out of eight received Concept Papers were **selected for the second phase** – preparation of full project proposals. **Deadline for submission of full project proposals** was **December 9th 2005**. Up to the deadline **five (5) Full Proposals** were submitted.

In order to assure high quality Full proposals in the second evaluation stage, REC Slovenia organized training on Full proposal preparation. Training was delivered on November 8 2005, and representatives from all 7 selected organizations participated. The training program was divided in four packages:

- 1st package was aimed to presentation of the Danube regional project in wider context and to presentation of the approach to Full proposal preparation.
- 2nd package was aimed to practical exercise in preparation of the Logical Framework (LF) for the project. All the participants designed LF for their own project, REC Slovenia staff provided comments and suggestions to their work.
- 3rd package was aimed to preparation of the budget for their projects. The approach to the preparation of the budget was presented in detail, as well as eligible costs.
- 4th package was aimed to promotion of the projects and work with media.

Participants considered the training very useful, especially because of the concrete work on their own project ideas.

Second phase evaluation process:

Evaluation Panel for the second phase was expanded by NGO representative, Mr. Bojan Žnidaršič. On behalf of Mr. Bricelj, ICPDR representative, Ms. Milena Janežič (MoE) participated the evaluation meeting due to his absence.

Evaluation panel members were provided with background information on Call for Tender as well as with all necessary materials and project proposals in advance. They individually scored each application according to Evaluation Sheets that were prepared.

During the **Evaluation panel meeting**, held on **January 5th 2006** in REC CO Slovenia premises, each of four experts presented their scoring for each particular project proposal. On the base of the sum-total scoring grid, preliminary priority list of applications was prepared. Experts started discussion on short-listed projects and presented their opinion on strengths and weakness of each project proposal. After that they agreed about awarding, additional demands and total amount of co-financing for each project. **Four (4) Full Proposals** were selected for granting.

The REC CO Slovenia took the responsibility for integration of all additional demands in project proposals before signing the contracts.

PROJECTS (LIST OF ALL AWARDED GRANTS)

No	Award No	Amount awarded	Project title	DESCRIPTION
1.	DGP ₀₅ /1	10.000 \$	The Effective Water Protection on Rural Areas in Podonavje Using Ecoremediation	<p>Aim of the project was to introduce the ecoremediations (ERM) as the most perspective way of water protection in the rural area of Podravje region. ERM is the way of protecting and restoring devastated environment by using natural ecosystems. Increased use of this method will contribute to reducing negative agricultural impacts on the water in Podravje region and to improving water quality.</p> <p>Following target groups were directly involved in project implementation: representatives of research institutions in the region, local inhabitants (farmers and land owners) and media. All together more than 300 people were involved in the project.</p> <p>Education program for farmers and local inhabitants in Podravje region was developed within the project, the seminar for local inhabitants and media was delivered, scientific meeting for the research institution representatives was held at University of Maribor, as well as public presentation of the project and media conference. Three booklets on ERM were prepared and printed (ERM for Effective Protection of Environment – 250 issues, Views on ERM – 200 issues, and Again Begin to Leave with Mokoš Stream – 1000 issues). Beside that 2000 pieces of educational postcards were printed and distributed, and 8 articles were published in local and national media.</p>
2.	DGP ₀₅ /2	10.000 \$	Preserving the Water by Promoting the Production and Use of Phosphate-free Detergents	<p>Project was aimed to influence on changing consumption patterns regarding the use of phosphate-free detergents. The goal was to increase the use of phosphate-free detergents in</p>

				<p>proportion to conventional ones, and indirectly to contribute to improvement of the ecological and chemical conditions of the water in the Danube river basin within North East Slovenian regions. The target groups involved in the project were Slovenian households, which did not use phosphate-free detergents so far, school youth (as potential users in the future), young families and partially environmentally conscious population. Following activities were implemented to approach listed target groups:</p> <p>The survey on awareness regarding the use of phosphate-free detergents was made in the beginning and at the end of the project, involving 450 individuals. Promotional leaflet was prepared, printed and distributed (10.000 issues). Media campaign was organized during two important events in Maribor – Days of Health and Days of Environment, more than 1500 visitors were noted.</p> <p>Wide promotion on internet was realised, 250 – 350 hits were noted per week.</p> <p>3 articles were prepared and published in national and local media, promotions were carried out on the 3 radio and on TV.</p> <p>The results at the end of the survey are showing the changes in consumer’s behavior (57% of asked population is using phosphate-free detergents after having gained knowledge on its advantages).</p>
3.	DGP ₀₅ /3	10.000 \$	Underground Water and Farmers	<p>Project’s aim was to introduce ecological farming methods and appropriate land use to the key stakeholders who are living in the naturally protected area of the Landscape Park Lahinja, and to educate local tourist guides on importance of biodiversity conservation in the area.</p> <p>Target groups involved were lands owners and farmers in the Landscape park Lahinja, local tourist guides in mentioned protected area, representatives of Nature Conservation Institute, local and national media.</p> <p>At the beginning, the initial presentation was realized in order to introduce the project to the landowners and key stakeholders. The most important goal of the meeting was and to gain permissions from landowners to use their land for project’s purpose, and to gain the guidelines from Nature Conservation Institute. The goal was reached, more than 30 people participated the meeting and their permissions and support were gathered.</p> <p>In continuation 3 workshops were realized for farmers and landowners, local tourist guides in the Park, local inhabitants, other interested public and media, aimed to: ecological farming</p>

				<p>promotion, biodiversity preservation in Landscape Park Lahinja, and the third one was special training for tourist Guides in the Park. Altogether 60 participants were involved.</p> <p>The project continued with series of field activities, important for biodiversity preservation: appropriate cutting of swamp meadows, plucking of alder trees and cleaning of riverbanks. All the activities were extremely well accepted by local inhabitants, participation was better than expected. The most important outcome of this task was, that the activities linked different stakeholders, who did not work together successfully in the past, and the agreement was reached to continue similar activities in the future and with that actively contribute to biodiversity preservation in the Park.</p> <p>The project was also very well promoted and covered by the media: 2000 pieces of promotional leaflet (slo/eng) was prepared and distributed, 2 newspaper articles were prepared and published, 3 radio broadcasting were prepared on the project implementation and reporting from the field during the actions, TV and radio spots were prepared and broadcasted.</p>
4.	DGP _{05/6}	10.000 \$	Individual Waste Water Cleaning Systems for Households and Farms in the Areas of Dispersed Settlements	<p>The purpose of the project was to raise awareness among the farmers and other residents in dispersed settlements of Volčji potok area (where the sewage system is not built yet) about the consequences of improperly built sump systems and cesspits on farms, which has an important impact on the groundwater.</p> <p>Analyses of non-point sources of pollution in the ground and surface waters was done as well as identification and analyses of most problematic areas was. The possibilities for restoration of the existing sumps and cesspits with proper ecological upgrades, which are suitable for the countryside, were presented.</p> <p>Workshop for residents and farmers in the area was organized (25 participants), two booklets were produced (1100 issues) and the scientific article was published. Call for research projects addressing primary school children was launched, and the web site was designed.</p>

REPORT OF GRANTING IMPLEMENTATION

Grants topics addressed in the country:

Agriculture discharges

- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

- Address (alternative) treatment methods that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Industrial discharges

- Promote use of phosphate-free detergents.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management.

Land-use and Wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects.
- Save and protect the natural floodplains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Grants monitoring

In order to prepare selected Danube grantees well for the management of the projects and for the reporting, the REC Slovenia organized workshop on Project Management and Reporting. Representatives of all 4 selected NGOs participated the event, which took place in REC Slovenia premises in Ljubljana. It was aimed to mutual acquaintance with selected project, to presentation of the grants monitoring process and reporting requirements, as well as to signing the contracts.

CO Slovenia was monitoring the grants constantly. Office staff was in close contacts with the grantees by phone and e-mail. We were regularly acquainted with the course of all projects. As there were no particular problems and due to very limited budget, CO Slovenia realized only one monitoring trip in Maribor, where two NGOs (Institute for Environmental Protection Promotion and Association of Family Members »Stork«) were visited in September 2006. Beside that the grantees visited CO Slovenia office if they had some questions to answer. In September 2006 Mr. Alexander Zinke performed the audit of all Slovenian projects. REC CO Slovenia assisted him in organizing the trip and accommodation and the meetings with NGOs and supported the communication. His response about the projects was very positive.

The **deadline for submission of the Midterm Reports** was **June 30th 2006**. All the grantees submitted the reports within the deadline, CO reviewed the reports and after abolishing some minor mistakes (mainly in financial reports), the reports were approved by July 20th 2006. As the installments in the contracts were defined as 60% advance payment and 40% after approving of the final report, no financial allocations were made within interim period.

The **deadline for submission of the Final Reports** was **January 31st 2007**. Three out of four final reports were received within the deadline, one of the grantees (ICRO Institute for Integral Development and Environment) asked for prolongation of the implementation period due to transferring the workshop for farmers in January. The prolongation was approved by REC Slovenia, so the final report from their side was received in the beginning of February 2007. All the reports were reviewed and approved.

During the implementation period two proposals were received for reallocation of costs (by Institute for Environmental Protection Promotion and by Association of Family Members »Stork«). Due to reasonable argumentation, the reallocations were approved by REC Slovenia.

No other modifications or problems arise during the implementation period. All the projects were implemented according to the plan and timely, the expenditures were appropriate and all the funds available were used. Beside that all the NGOs co financed project activities from their own sources and in-kind.

ACHIEVEMENTS/INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Due to the limited financial resources for environmental NGOs in Slovenia, DRP was one of rare opportunities for small NGOs in Slovenia to get co-financing for their projects. Actually the demand from NGOs was much higher, altogether they applied for 80.000 USD, but we were limited by available funds, so we awarded 40.000 USD.

- The cooperative approach used by the REC vis-à-vis NGOs within tender procedure, full support in project proposal preparation, additional trainings and readiness to help during the implementation period, was valued as a very positive experience by NGOs. On the other hand it was evident, that NGOs have quality personnel and high level of knowledge in the field of environmental protection, so they are able to address technical problems related to nutrient and toxic reduction and to introduce new approaches.
- One of the important achievement of the Danube grants in Slovenia was, that there was relatively high number of local inhabitants and land owners directly involved in project implementation (250 farmers participated the seminars on eco farming, and 60 joined the field activities for appropriate cutting of swamp meadows, plucking of alder trees and cleaning the riverbanks). The project managed to transfer the message why it is important to use appropriate farming methods in order to reduce nutrient pollution and to preserve reach biodiversity in the protected area as they took over the initiative to continue with similar activities by them selves in the future and with that actively contribute to biodiversity preservation in the preserved area. The project also managed to link different stakeholders, who did no work together successfully in the past.
- Another important achievement was that the NGO managed to apply new, technically supported method for reducing nutrient and toxic reduction in the rural area of Podravje – use of Ecoremediations (ERM). ERM is the way of protecting and restoring devastated environment by using natural ecosystems. In cooperation with top specialists in this field NGO prepared, 3 booklets and several workshops for farmers (250 farmers and land owners were directly involved in educational activities). NGO approached to the potential users (farmers) directly, showing why and how they could use the ecoremediation with relatively low investment and by that contribute to water pollution reduction.
- Next important achievement of the Danube grants in Slovenia is that NGO with thought, constant and target guided promotion on relevant groups (young families, youth,) influenced on changing consumers behavior. They made wide media campaign, produced 10.000 issues of leaflets showing all advantages of phosphate free detergents, used internet and existing infrastructure (health centers) as well as traditional events (Day of health, Day of Environment,) in order to promote alternative washing means. The research, done in the beginning and at the end of the project showed that 57% of asked population is using phosphate-free detergents after having gained knowledge on its advantages (450 participated in each round).

Good improvement of the grant scheme was the media training, which contributed a lot to better promotion of the Danube Regional Project as a whole as well as of particular projects.

Overall results and impacts:

Addressed topic area	Results and approaches		List of indicators	
	<i>Indirect impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Direct impact on nutrient/ toxics reduction</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>
Three of national projects contributed to agricultural discharges topic area by promoting eco-farming and addressing alternative treatment methods	Reducing nutrients by promoting organic agriculture, changing people's mentality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 farmers and land owners directly involved in educational activities, • 150 other stakeholders acquainted with project activities, • 3 booklets (in total 1450 issues) published and distributed, • 2000 pieces of educational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • positive attitude of the local population towards project activities, great interes for cooperation • large response of local and national media, good media coverage, • readiness of the local population for continuation of started activities in the future, • increased knowledge on ecoremediations, ecological farming and biodiversity preservation

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> postcards printed and distributed, 8 media articles published, 1 TV spot prepared and broadcasted, 1 Radio spot prepared and broadcasted, 1 interview published in largest national daily newspaper Delo, 1 press conference with 40 participants, 1 scientific meeting, national and regional audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in involved local areas, 2 workshops High quality of the information posted, Media coverage, Quality of the publications,
One of the national projects contributed to Land-use and Wetlands topic area by supporting conservation and restoration of wetland habitat.		Conservation and restoration 200 ha of wetland habitat by reintroducing appropriate methods for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 workshops, 60 participants 2000 pieces of promotional leaflet (slo/eng) 3 field activities, 60 participants statement for TV and radio, 3 broadcastings 2 newspaper articles 3 radio shows about the project were prepared as well as reporting from the field (during the field actions) 19 Qualified local tourist guides in the Landscape Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of interested farmers and other projects stakeholders and informing target groups Key stakeholders informed on biodiversity preservation and on importance of eco-farming in Nature Park Lahinja 70% of total population in the area acquainted with the impacts of project approximately 15% of the area preserved 19 certificates awarded to the tourist guides Increased shareholders' awareness on nature preservation Partnership established among different institutions dealing with the protected area, follow up foreseen
One of the national projects contributed to Municipal discharges Address household waste management	Reducing nutrients by minimising and controlling non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and surface waters.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 local inhabitants in the project area acquainted with the project 21 firms identified producing cleaning systems 2 leaflets (1000 and 100 issues) produced and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the analyses of non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and surface waters Identified and analysed most problematic areas, Results of the analyses of different treatment systems, 18 systems involved High quality publications

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> distributed • 25 participants at the workshop for farmers, • 1 article published 	
One of the national projects contributed to promotion of phosphate-free detergents	Reducing nutrients by changing people's mentality and promotion of use of phosphate free detergents	15.000 people informed about the advantages of use of phosphate-free detergents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.000 pieces of the promotional publication prepared and distributed, • 450 people participated in the survey, • 3 articles in national media published • 2 special promotion events organized - info-educational stalls, 1500 visitors • 250 – 350 hits at the web page per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 surveys implemented are showing the changes in consumers behavior (57% of asked population is using phosphate-free detergents after having knowledge on its advantages • wide media promotion (TV and radio stations), positive responses were reached • Raised public awareness on impacts of use phosphate-free detergents • Increased using of Phosphate-free detergents in households

Type and Number of Stakeholders:

Lands owners, farmers and part-time farmers from local areas -800

NGO members - 37

Local tourist guides in protected areas - 19

Representatives of research institutes, Nature Conservation Institute and Institute for Agriculture and Forestry 65

Local administration representatives - 5

Slovenian households who did not use phosphate-free detergents so far -1000

School youth, pupils - 810

Young families - 900

Local and national media - 31

Tools

Indicate which of the following tools did the NGOs use in each of the project and explain how:

- Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media (articles, leaflets, brochures, promotional spots, interviews, radio and TV broadcasting, press conference, web sites...)
- Lobbying and campaigning. (2 stalls organized on special events (Days of Health and Days of environment, campaigning for phosphate-free detergents use
- Public participation.
- Environmental education and training (ecological farming - for farmers and landowners, biodiversity preservation – for tourist guides in protected area, ecoremediations – for farmers,
- Networking and partnerships. *conservation and restoration of wetland habitat – field activities for farmers*
- Research (Analyses of non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and surface water, Analyses of different treatment systems, Scientific meeting, scientific article).

Media coverage:

All the projects considered visibility guidelines – they mentioned the donor on printed materials and at the events, as well as used the logo.

- 13 media articles published in Slovenian national and local magazines (Večer, Delo, Novice, Ptujski dnevnik, Žurnal, Belokranjec, Dolenjski list, Dnevnik, Vestnik, Ptujčan, Štajerski tednik),
- 1 article about the project published in largest Slovenian daily Delo (section Science),
- 12 presentations of the projects at different web sites, 250 – 350 hints per week
- 1 promotional TV spot prepared and broadcasted on local TV Vaš Kanal,
- 1 promotional radio spot prepared and broadcasted on local Radio Odeon,
- 3 radio broadcasts on Radio Odeon
- 1 press conference with 40 participants,
- wide media promotion on television (POP TV, Info TV, Vaš Kanal, TV Slovenia),
- 7 radio stations involved in promotion (Radio Maribor, Radio Slovenia, Radio Študent, Radio Prelek Ormož, Radio Odeon, Radio Krka, Studio D),
- 1 scientific article published
- 1 statement produced for radio,
- 3 radio shows about the project were prepared as well as reporting from the field (during the field actions)

SUCCESS STORIES

Project Title	Underground Water and Farmers
Project goals	One of the project's goals was to introduce ecological farming methods and appropriate land use (cutting of swamp meadows, plucking of alder trees and cleaning of river banks) to the key stakeholders who are living in the naturally protected area of the Landscape Park Lahinja, to preserve reach biodiversity of the wetland area. Another goal was to raise awareness of the local population on biodiversity preservation issues and to stimulate them to participate in preservation activities in the future.
Description of its impact on direct or indirect nutrient reduction	<p>15 % of the protected area was conserved and restored (200 ha) of wetland habitat by reintroducing appropriate methods for maintenance. Interested farmers and other projects stakeholders were involved in the project activities, key stakeholders were informed on biodiversity preservation and on importance of eco-farming in Nature Park Lahinja. At least 70% of target groups knew impact of project). 19 local tourist guides were trained on biodiversity preservation in the Park, certificates were awarded. All the landowners in the targeted area signed the permissions and allowed to implement project activities on their land. Partnership was established among different institutions dealing with the protected area, follow up of similar activities is foreseen. The most important outcome was, that the project activities linked different stakeholders, who did not work together successfully in the past, and that the agreement was reached to continue similar activities in the future and with that actively contribute to biodiversity preservation in the Park.</p> <p>The project was also very well promoted and covered by the media: 2000 pieces of promotional leaflet (slo/eng) was prepared and distributed, 2 newspaper articles were prepared and published, 3 radio broadcasting were prepared on the project implementation and reporting from the field during the actions, TV and radio spots were prepared and broadcasted.</p>
Range and involvement of stakeholders	Target groups involved were lands owners and farmers in the Landscape park Lahinja (60), local tourist guides in mentioned protected area (19), representatives of Nature Conservation Institute, NGOs, local population, media and tourists (60)
Measurable and concrete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 workshops, 60 participants

outcomes of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2000 pieces of promotional leaflet (slo/eng)• 3 field activities, 60 participants• statement for TV and radio, 3 broadcastings• 2 newspaper articles• 3 radio shows about the project were prepared as well as reporting from the field (during the field actions)• 19 qualified local tourist guides in Park
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Danube Regional Project

Regional Grants - Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO Regional Environmental Projects

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), on behalf of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, hereby announces the second call for proposals to support non-governmental organisation (NGO) projects related to the reduction of Danube River basin nutrient and toxic chemicals pollution at the regional level.

Regional grants are up to USD 35,000 each. In exceptional cases (proposals that involve more than three NGOs, require some form of construction or involve extended networking), the amount can exceed this limit by 50 percent (i.e. up to USD 50,000).

The deadline for submitting concept papers is September 2, 2005.

BACKGROUND

The Danube Basin and its Environmental Problems

The Danube is Europe's second-longest river, extending 2,780 kilometres from its source in Germany to its delta at the Black Sea. The river forms a political boundary for 10 countries with vastly different political, economic and historical backgrounds. It is also a cultural and romantic symbol of central Europe's rich past and hopes for future integration.

The Danube's drainage basin is extremely large and diverse. It hosts very different ecosystems, including various wetlands of European importance (e.g. karst caves, alpine and steppe lakes, floodplain forests, the Danube delta). With more than 80 million people living in its vicinity, the Danube's basin is the most international in the world. Countless tributaries drain into the Danube, including the Inn, the Morava, the Tisza, the Sava, and the Prut rivers.

Pollution remains a serious problem in the Danube region. The volume of nutrients — mainly from agricultural fertilisers and manure, and urban household sewage — that enter the Danube basin waters is very high. Nutrient pollution is the contamination of surface and groundwater bodies by excessive inputs of nutrients. Although the natural input of nutrients is a prerequisite for the growth of organisms (i.e. the natural food chain), while river floodplains can cope with even large amounts of nutrients, pollution is typically caused by human activities and includes point sources such as municipal sewage treatment plants and industry emissions (e.g. foods), while non-point sources refer to the spraying of commercial fertilisers and animal waste on agricultural land, from where it infiltrates groundwater or drains with rain water into creeks, lakes and rivers. Hazardous substances often cause water pollution. The term “hazardous” means substances that have toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic or bio-accumulative effects, in particular those that decompose slowly or are persistent and have a significant adverse impact on living organisms. Heavy metals

such as copper, iron, manganese, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, mercury, nickel, and lead are toxic substances (mainly from the mining and metal industries), which tend to accumulate in the food chain and represent a substantial risk to aquatic and human life. Numerous other hazardous compounds that cause toxic and/or chronic pollution are of an organic nature and stem from the chemical, pharmaceutical and paper industries.

This pollution has placed local drinking water sources as well as the Black Sea in serious condition. The situation is made worse by industrial incidents that spill or flush toxics directly into watercourses.

The August 2002 floods that raged through Central Europe and the Danube basin are evidence of other environmental problems. They were partly the result of past economic development decisions that led to deforestation and the destruction of natural floodplains in the Danube basin. Global warming also played a role. This degradation of the natural flood retention capacities also reduces the natural self-purification capacities for the uptake of nutrients e.g. in floodplains.

Preserving habitat for the rich and diverse natural species living in the basin is also a constant struggle. Some 80 percent of the Danube's wetlands and floodplains have been lost since the end of the 19th century, threatening the habitats of pelicans in the Danube delta, sturgeon in the lower Danube, beavers in the upper Danube, as well as the habitats of countless other species.

In 1998, the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) came into force after ratification by eight Danube states and the European Commission (EC). The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) was created to coordinate the implementation of the convention. Since its creation, the ICPDR has been effective in finding consensus among basin countries on priorities and strategies for improving the Danube and implementing the DRPC. Successes include the improvement of tools to manage the basin, such as the Accident Emergency Warning System, the Trans-National Monitoring Network for water quality and the information system for the Danube (DANUBIS). In effect, the commission has done much to promote trans-boundary cooperation among numerous countries in a highly complex European region.

The objectives of the ICPDR's 2001-2005 Joint Action Programme for the Danube River Basin are directed towards:

- the improvement of the ecological and chemical status of the water;
- the prevention of accidental pollution events; and
- the minimisation of flood impacts.

In addition to these main objectives, the implementation of the Joint Action Programme will:

- improve the living standard of the Danube basin's population,
- enhance economic development in the region, contribute to the European Union accession process,
- restore the region's biodiversity and strengthen cooperation between the contracting parties.

For further information about the Joint Action Programme's objectives and directives visit:
www.icpdr.org.

The Danube Joint Survey published in May 2002,¹ identified various chemical pollutants such as heavy metals, volatile organic hydrocarbons, polar pesticides and pharmaceuticals that are directly affecting the chemical and

¹ Visit: www.icpdr.org.

biological status of the Danube River. The study on nutrients found different quantities of nitrogen and phosphorus in organic and inorganic forms along the Danube River, which indicated that the water quality in different parts of the river is contaminated. As a result, the middle Danube reach indicated eutrophication, which can cause the pollution of drinking water sources and decrease biodiversity in the long-term. Different hotspots were detected and prioritised based on the level of water contamination.

The *Trans-boundary Analysis* and other documents produced within the framework of the Danube Pollution Reduction Programme (1999, GEF/UNDP) are available on the ICPDR website¹ under “GEF Assistance to the ICPDR” and then “Danube Pollution Reduction Programme 1997 to 1999.” This site contains useful information about the sources of pollution and ways to address them in different parts of the Danube River basin. These publications contain maps with information on the pollution hotspots, wetlands and other useful pollution data generated in different pollution sectors such as municipalities, agriculture, industry, land-use and wetlands. Further information on the current UNDP/GEF DRP (2001-2006) is available at www.undp-drp.org.

The European Union’s Water Framework Directive is now the basis for river basin management in Europe and thereby is the platform for implementing the DRPC. The ICPDR has been entrusted to coordinate WFD implementation at the DRB level including the development of the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

Danube Regional Project

The Danube Regional Project (DRP) — officially known as Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River Basin — was launched on December 1, 2001 as the next phase of GEF/UNDP’s long-term commitment to achieving environmental health in the Danube River Basin. A key focus of the DRP is to strengthen the capacity of the ICPDR and Danube countries to fulfil their legally binding commitment to implement the Danube Protection Convention. Already well under way, the DRP is an umbrella for some 80 activities.

A recent success story was the significant support from the DRP for developing the Danube River Analysis 2004, the first ever comprehensive analysis of the environment and pressures impacting it, in the Danube Basin. The report was required by the EC to help to assess how Danube countries will meet the WFD by 2015. It also serves as a key step toward preparing the future Danube River Basin Management Plan (see the report at www.ocpdr.org).

To reduce nutrient and toxic pollution, the DRP works with a wide range of local, national and international stakeholders. For example, the DRP is helping national pollution control offices to assess which areas in the Danube basin are most at risk from floods washing hazardous substances into water bodies. The project works with farmers and farmer advisory services to improve techniques for applying fertilisers and pesticides. An activity will soon help Danube governments implement voluntary bans on phosphates used in washing detergents. And a pilot project will try to demonstrate the effectiveness of wetlands in removing nutrients from the river by retaining them.

The Danube Grants Programme is part of DRP Objective 3 to strengthen public involvement in environmental decision-making and to reinforce community actions for pollution reduction and the protection of ecosystems. In this context, the Grants Programme is also seen as "applied" awareness raising.

Objective 3 has supported the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF), a basin-wide network of NGOs. From 30 members in 2002, the DEF grew to 160 by mid-2005. The DEF’s capacity to implement actions for controlling water pollution has improved. Training materials about wetland rehabilitation and nutrient reduction have been developed in ten languages. In the future, DEF member involvement in developing policies will be supported through government partnerships (e.g. the Danube River Basin Management Plan within the framework of the EU’s Water Framework Directive).

The DRP's Communications Strategy calls for strengthening NGO communications. DEF members, for example, have already received support in developing products such as their newsletter, website and publications. The strategy opens the door for NGOs to assist in implementing communications strategies targeted at key audiences, in part through awareness-raising campaigns at the community level (e.g. for wetland restoration and changing land-use patterns). And the DRP will actively disseminate news about NGO activities to the people of the Danube through the media.

The DRP will be carried out over five years with a total budget of USD 15 million. The bigger picture is that the DRP is part of the USD 95 million GEF Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction in the Danube/Black Sea Basin, one of GEF's largest and perhaps most ambitious water-related projects in the world. The partnership supports the goals of the Commissions for the Danube and Black Sea to reduce nutrient and toxic loads to the levels necessary to allow Black Sea ecosystems to recover their state in the 1960s.

NGO Contributions to Nutrient Reduction

NGOs and other stakeholders can contribute to the reduction of nutrients and toxics in the Danube River basin at both the national and regional levels. NGOs can undertake activities that lead directly to pollution reduction or facilitate the process of solving pollution problems. These projects could directly address the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution, and confront the transboundary or national problems present in the identified hotspots. The nutrient reduction projects of NGOs can also take indirect approaches, such as preventing pollution generation by improving and raising industry and public awareness; facilitating the flow of information; assisting in the prevention of accidental pollution, promoting the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and the sound use of organic fertilisers. These projects should also facilitate the development and functioning of democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in pollution-related issues and decisions.

They can present community views to decision makers as a bridge between officials and the general public, facilitate public participation in decision-making processes for Danube basin issues, or suggest alternative solutions for preventing or reducing pollution. Furthermore, NGOs can be a useful channel for the dissemination of information to the public, increasing their awareness of the problems and possible solutions. In order to fulfil their roles, NGOs concerned with the Danube basin need to strengthen various capacities. Awareness-raising can effectively contribute to expanding the common understanding of trans-boundary and even global environmental problems and respective solutions.

Based on the DRP grants experience with the first round of grants the overall majority of NGO activities supported by the grants component had an indirect effect on nutrient and toxic pollutant reduction in the Danube. This was expected since one of the strengths of NGOs is their ability to raise public awareness and change behaviours and attitudes to indirectly induce pollution prevention. However, a variety of NGO activities at the national level have led to direct nutrient reduction and the removal of toxins. These activities range from the removal of illegal dumps near waterways, to the reforestation of riverbanks to avoid erosion and improve water quality. Artificially constructed wetlands that can function as wastewater treatment areas were also planned, along with the management of hydrophytes and the management of nature reserves, improved water quality in ponds and the creation of new protected areas.

The most typical pollution source addressed by national grants in the first DRP Grants round was agriculture, with the most common theme being: 'Addressing flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution-related effects', followed in popularity by 'promoting eco-farming methods and alternative rural development'. The second most common target after agriculture was municipal discharge: 'Addressing urban waste-water collection and treatment'. The least popular part of the scope has been industrial discharges, with the specific aim of, 'Assisting in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities'.

DRP Regional Grants – Second Round

During the first round, NGOs contributed to this process through direct actions as well as through collaboration with other stakeholders. A range of stakeholders have been targeted during the first grants round, including farmers, authorities, school children, enterprises and designers. In general, the projects were able to reach a wide range of stakeholders, as expected. The biggest challenge for the involved NGOs and for the REC was to monitor and measure the extent to which the stakeholders are impacting the success of the project. This aspect of the work needs to be further improved and better tackled by the NGOs in the second grants round.

With respect to the tools used, considering the nature of NGO work, during the first grants round some lobbying and awareness raising is used extensively, whereas research and monitoring are less popular tools.

This DRP National Grants programme is a follow-up to the first round and is expected to enable NGOs of the Danube basin region to increase public involvement in nutrient reduction through “practical” projects, education and training, monitoring and influencing policy at local and regional levels.

ELIGIBILITY

Registered NGOs in the Danube basin countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine with an environmental focus and an NGO bank account are eligible for national and regional grants.

NGOs must propose a project that includes cooperation with an NGO partner (or partners) in at least one other eligible country. The project may be no longer than 13 months in duration (January 2006 – January 2007).

In addition, NGOs applying for regional grants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- a. readiness to develop an international project of up to 13-months in duration;
- b. commitment to cooperating with partner NGOs from other countries or sub-regions (i.e. sub-basins);
- c. a proven track record in project management;
- d. experience with water, agriculture or nutrient issues (preferred);
- e. English-language capability; and
- f. access to necessary equipment and facilities.

LIMITATIONS

- Grants will not support projects that focus on research or scientific work (unless they are linked to other aspects of the project); purely operational expenditures (such as salaries or office rent); purchase of land, buildings, investments, or vehicles not justified by the project’s aims.
- NGOs currently running a cooperative project supported by the REC cannot apply for another cooperative grant before the final report of the previous project has been submitted and approved.
- Under the regional grants, NGOs may not submit more than one concept paper as a lead NGO and cannot be involved in more than two concept papers. They may apply as a partner NGO in two separate concept papers.

- If an organisation is involved in two concept papers, the NGO must appoint different project coordinators for each project proposal.
- At the full proposal stage each selected NGO can benefit from only one grant.

PROJECT SCOPE

The main scope of the regional grants is to facilitate a regional approach to the reduction of both point and non-point sources of nutrient and toxic substances pollution in the Danube basin.

A regional approach implies cross-border NGO cooperation and multi-stakeholder involvement. NGOs are encouraged to cooperate and work in partnership with NGOs in neighbouring countries (e.g. within the same Danube sub-basin²) in addressing the cross-border and regional environmental problems related to nutrient and toxic substances reduction. In addition, they are encouraged to involve other stakeholders, such as local authorities, water-related institutions, the industrial sector and the agricultural community. NGOs are encouraged to involve other stakeholders, such as local (environment) authorities, water-related institutions, the industrial sector and the agricultural community.

These grants will help NGOs to manage projects that:

- directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- address transboundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilisers; and
- aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

NGOs are encouraged to manage activities with **concrete and measurable impact on reducing nutrients and toxic substances**. Since the overall objective of the call is the reduction of the nutrients and toxic substances in the Danube River basin, all the activities must demonstrate the direct or indirect impact on the reduction of nutrients and toxic substances. This impact must be measurable through indicators which should be well defined.

Additionally the regional grants should:

- **Involve other stakeholders.** Projects should identify stakeholders from the water-management sector, decision makers in pollution-producing units and other key players, and actively involve them in project implementation.
- **Change consumer behaviour.** NGO projects using an awareness-raising or campaigning approach towards consumers must be able to demonstrate the impact on consumers' behaviour (in terms of reducing nutrient pollution, promoting best agricultural practices).
- **Serve as a model for other areas in the Danube River basin.** Preferred projects are those that use a replicable approach and serve as an example for other areas in the Danube River basin that have similar problems and framework conditions.

² The Danube River basin is divided into various sub-basins of its main tributaries, such as the Tisza River or the Drava River sub-basins.

- **Promote and assist the application of the Aarhus Convention at the national or local level**, especially by improving the [public](#) access to information on pollution and [their](#) sources and enhancing public participation in [decision-making](#) on Danube water-related issues.
- **Contribute to policy work at the national level**. NGOs are encouraged to contribute to policy development and political discussions related to nutrients in the Danube basin (e.g. national or local pollution abatement programmes, environmental education, the implementation of EU directives).
- **Apply a regional approach, networking with NGOs at the regional level** (i.e. across the entire Danube basin or within certain multi-country areas).
- **Employ a trans-boundary perspective**. Projects must increase the understanding of national contributions to transboundary environmental problems.
- **Use the watershed approach**, especially in projects addressing land-use development. NGOs should relate the source of pollution with the impact area when different from administrative or political boundaries.

The tools used can be diverse. The REC encourages NGOs to use one or several of the following tools in their project proposals under this grant programme:

- **Awareness-raising and information dissemination through the media**. The results of this commonly used NGO strategy must be disseminated within the project timeframe and the project outreach must be ensured. The messages and dissemination strategy should be clearly explained in the proposal.
- **Lobbying and campaigning**. We encourage NGOs to use lobbying activities in order to reach and influence policy makers, particularly those at the river basin management level. Campaigning can also be used to influence consumers, producers, local communities and various stakeholder groups (e.g. changing consumers' behaviour concerning fertiliser use, phosphates-free detergents, etc.).
- **Public participation**. NGOs are encouraged not only to reach the public and the producers of pollution but also to promote and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process in relation to water management, [planning](#) and other relevant environmental processes [reducing pollution](#) in hotspot areas. At the same time such facilitation should not be limited to information dissemination and community involvement, but should also be present in active and lasting dialogue with decision makers, discussing problems and influencing the decision-making process.
- **Preparation for or participation in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive**. NGOs should actively cooperate with and assist the authorities in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, or its preparation. Activities including the different forms of information and active involvement of all interested parties including NGOs and affected public in phases I and II of the WFD, as well as the preparation for phase III when the information and consultation with the public, including users, should be organised for the draft RBM plan, are encouraged. Existing opportunities for stakeholder and NGO involvement — through River Basin Committees, for example — should be enhanced and improved.
- **Environmental education and training**. Educational activities, targeted at teachers, pupils, students, or other groups, which aim to establish an understanding of nutrient and toxic-related problems, should also provide measures to prevent and reduce nutrient and toxic-related problems in the river basin area.
- **Networking and partnerships**. NGOs are encouraged to develop networks and partnerships with other NGOs, as well as with other stakeholders from related institutions (e.g. with water and environmental agencies, industry, agricultural cooperatives).
- **Interactive case projects**. Activities consisting of concrete conservation, rehabilitation work and clean-up actions are encouraged. Their lasting benefit should be demonstrated.
- **Monitoring**. Projects which include environmental monitoring work but exclude work requiring sophisticated technical equipment and certified expertise are also encouraged.

- **Research.** NGOs can receive support for simple applied research projects which do not require complex scientific work (e.g. opinion polls or assessment of available data).

Innovative ideas for other tools that could prove useful in addressing the reduction of nutrient and toxic pollution are encouraged.

Types of cooperation required:

a. Cross-border/region-wide cooperation

Only NGOs from at least two different countries working cooperatively to solve an environmental issue that affects them both (or all) can apply for a grant. Projects should address cross-border or region-wide environmental problems related to the Danube. Transboundary or cross-border problems should focus on a shared river, watershed (Danube sub-basin) or habitat. Region-wide projects typically deal with common issues that concern all the involved countries such as awareness-raising, environmental education, policy issues and public participation in decision making related to specific pollution problems.

b. Multi-stakeholder cooperation

Through these grants the UNDP-GEF and the REC also intend to promote cooperation between NGOs and other stakeholders involved in solving pollution-related issues. These include: local or central authorities, the business sector, farm organisations, and other relevant institutions.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

The deterioration of groundwater and the eutrophication of surface water both stem from point and non-point sources of pollution caused by agriculture, industry and municipal discharges. The necessary nutrient reduction can be facilitated by improving our knowledge about pollution, improving the management tools used to prevent, reduce and treat pollution, and by establishing or facilitating processes that lead closer to solutions of pollution problems. The regional approach will be the key to the solutions offered by NGOs. The environmental issues that the regional grants must address are related to the deterioration of groundwater and the eutrophication of surface water, both stemming from point and non-point sources of pollution from agriculture, industry and municipal sectors as well as problems which relate to other water management issues.

Grants will be awarded to NGO projects addressing the following nutrient and toxic substances pollution-related issues:

Agricultural discharges

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices to avoid, minimise and/or control non-point sources of pollution in the ground- and /or surface waters.
- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industrial discharges

- Promote the best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic substance pollution.
- Promote production and use of phosphate-free detergents.

- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipal discharges

- Address household waste management, like reducing the use of conventional detergents.
- Address urban wastewater collection and treatment.

Land-use and wetlands

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution effects.
- Save and protect the natural flood plains (buffer strips).
- Support conservation and restoration of floodplains and wetland habitat.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process has two stages. In the first stage, NGOs should submit a short concept paper briefly describing the proposed project activities and expressing their interest in cooperating to solve a cross-border or region-wide environmental problem. Only successful NGOs from the first application phase will enter the second stage. The best proposals will be selected by December 2005. Here are the stages of the application process for obtaining a DRP grant:

STAGE 1. CONCEPT PAPERS

1. CHOSE PARTNERS

The concept paper should involve NGOs from at least two different countries. NGOs may wish to consult the following resources for identifying their partners:

- The REC's *NGO Directory* — A hard copy of the directory is available at REC country offices. The directory can also be accessed or ordered online.³
- Personal contacts.

Apart from the NGOs, partners must also be different stakeholders relevant to the project scope and area who should be involved in the project implementation.

2. SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT PAPERS (Deadline: September 2, 2005)

The concept paper must be submitted in English and include the following:

- **Concept paper form:** Applicants must fill out the attached form and prepare a brief project description following the instructions provided in the form template.
- **Statement of cooperation.**
- **Project preparation grant application.** Writing a full proposal for a cooperative grant may be challenging since the project partners come from different countries. Therefore, a “start-up” grant of up to USD 1,500 is available to give you the opportunity to meet project partners (NGOs and other stakeholders) and prepare the full proposal. The meeting can take place in any of the countries involved in the project. The only costs that can be covered by the REC are related to travel, accommodation and food.
- **Eligibility documents:** All lead and partner NGOs involved in the concept paper that request funding from the REC should provide the following documents separately:

³ Visit: www.rec.org/REC/Databases/NGODirectory/.

- a copy of their NGO's registration;
- a letter of support from the president or director of their NGO — the letters should demonstrate the commitment of the NGO to implementing the project and show support for the person nominated as project coordinator; and
- short organisational profiles, including a brief presentation (a leaflet or brochure would suffice), a list of projects implemented and the annual budgets (in EUR) from the past three years.

The lead NGO is responsible for submitting the complete original concept paper to the REC's head office in Szentendre by the given deadline. All NGOs involved in the concept paper must send copies of this document to the REC offices in their countries. The concept paper must be sent in its original form, by post to the REC head office (fax and e-mail submissions will not be considered). The concept paper must arrive at the REC offices by the end of the day September 2, 2005, or it will not be accepted.

3. EVALUATION OF CONCEPT PAPERS (September 16, 2005)

The concept papers will be evaluated by a panel consisting of REC experts and a representative of the DEF,⁴ ICPDR⁵ and DRP.⁶ The REC country offices and the NIS partners will also review and provide comments on the concept papers.

Projects will be selected according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance to the issue:** Does the identified action address a regional/cross-border problem related to the grant's scope as stated in the announcement?
- **The impact of NGO activities:** What does the project intend to improve or change? Are goals and objectives contributing to the grant's scope?
- **Approach:**
 - Are the methodology and tools proposed appropriate/realistic for solving the problem? To what extent are NGOs using the suggested tools and approaches outlined in the announcement?
 - Regional NGO cooperation: Is the cross-border or regional NGO cooperation feasible and are the partners committed?
 - Involvement of other stakeholders: Are the identified stakeholders willing to cooperate with the NGOs in addressing the regional problem?
- **The capacity of the NGOs:** Are the NGOs qualified (previous project management experience/annual budgets)?

The REC strongly recommends that applicants take the selection criteria into consideration when preparing the concept paper. The concept papers will be scored and ranked against these criteria. The top concept papers will be selected on this basis.

After the concept paper evaluation meeting, conditions, preconditions, recommendations and suggestions for improving the quality of the proposals will be given to the selected NGOs.

⁴ DEF - Danube Environmental Forum, the region-wide NGO platform established to support NGO involvement in Danube basin issues

⁵ ICPDR – International Commission for the protection of the Danube River

⁶ DRP – Danube Regional Project

4. TRAINING ON LOG FRAMEWORK AND MEDIA (September 30, 2005)

A short training will be organised by the REC at the regional level to assist the short selected NGOs during the concept-paper stage in preparing full proposals. The training costs for the participants will be covered by the REC. Training will cover two major components:

I. Component one: the LOG framework approach, to assist NGOs with project planning, consisting of three parts:

1. Introduction to the logical framework approach;
2. The LOG frame process (analyses of the problem, objectives setting, indicators, planning phase);
3. LOG frame matrix for a REC project design.

II. Component two: media session will aim to:

- prepare the selected NGOs to include media and communication components in their proposals;
- assist the NGO applicants with hands-on skills in mass-media communications and holding media events that they should employ during project implementation.

STAGE 2: FULL PROPOSAL

5. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS (Deadline November 11, 2005)

The NGOs whose concept papers are approved in stage 1 are eligible for a project preparation grant and a start-up grant. The purpose of the start-up grant is to help partners meet and work together on a full proposal. The exact amount of the start-up grant, which cannot exceed USD 1,500, will be approved during the evaluation of the concept paper. The funds will be transferred to the lead NGO's bank account. The project coordinator of the lead NGO must keep careful records of how the money was spent and submit a report together with the full proposal. This project preparation phase will be during October-November 2005. NGOs prepare the full proposals taking into consideration the comments and recommendations from the concept paper evaluation. Additionally the NGOs should pay attention to the instructions and tips they will get at the trainings on the LOG framework and media work.

The full proposal must arrive at the REC's head office and country offices by the end of the day on November 11, 2005. Only proposals sent by mail will be accepted.

6. EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS (December 2, 2003)

An independent expert panel will evaluate all proposals. The expert panel will consist of: three representatives of the REC NGO Support Programme; three independent expert evaluators (DEF/ICPDR members can be independent expert evaluators); and one representative from the donor (DRP).

The proposals are first pre-screened by REC staff for completeness. The expert panel will then review the proposals and score and rank them based on the following standard criteria:

Environmental impact

- Measurable results lead directly or indirectly to nutrient pollution reduction.
- Process and stress reduction indicators are clearly defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used.

- Trans-boundary perspective/watershed approaches are applied.

Cooperation

- Feasible regional/cross-border cooperation is demonstrated.
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation is involved.

Proposal quality

- There is a reasonable and realistic action plan.
- The budget is cost effective.

Staff capability

- Staff experience and competence on the issue exists in all NGOs involved.

The REC country office and EECCA REC partners will contribute to the evaluation with their comments on the issues relevant to the particular country, the methods employed by the NGOs, and staff capacity.

7. WINNERS' MEETING (January 13, 2006)

Grant winners will be notified and invited to the REC's head office in Szentendre, Hungary for a "winners' meeting." The REC will invite project leaders and partners to this meeting.

During the winners meeting the NGOs will: present their joint projects to the other grantees, become familiar with the REC's reporting forms and requirements and review and sign the award agreement. This document specifies the reporting conditions and disbursement schedule. The grantees will meet the grant officer and a financial assistant from the REC's head office, who will work closely with them throughout the project's implementation.

8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (January 2006 – January 2007)

Grant winners should expect the first grant instalments within one month after the award agreement has been signed. The team will manage the project implementation within the given time frame according to the approved project proposal. The REC's assigned grant officer will monitor the project's implementation through direct contact and field visits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on this grant programme, interested parties can:

- visit the website: www.rec.org/REC/Programs/NGO_Support/Grants/RegionalDanubeGrants/ or
- contact Richard Filcak at the REC's head office (e-mail: rfileak@rec.org; tel: [36-26] 504-000; fax: [36-26] 311-294).

More information on the overall Danube Regional Project can be found on the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project web page: www.undp-drp.org.

The REC's country and field offices will also be available to provide assistance.

DRP Regional Grants – Second Round

The original concept papers should arrive by post at the REC's head office (Ady Endre ut 9-11, 2000 Szentendre, Hungary) by the end of the day on September 2, 2005. Copies of the concept papers should also be sent to the REC's country office in each partner's country.

In addition to the second round of regional grants, the REC is managing, on behalf of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project, the second round of national grants to NGOs in the Danube River basin, in order to address nutrient issues at the national level by involving other stakeholders. More information on these national grants can be found at:

www.rec.org/REC/Programs/NGO_Support/Grants/NationalDanubeGrants/



Danube Regional Project Regional Grants- Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO Regional Environmental Projects

CONCEPT PAPER FORM

Please type or write neatly in dark ink. The form for concept papers should be submitted together with a complete project description, a statement of cooperation from the partner(s), and the project preparation grant and partner request form (if applicable). Cooperating partners must sign the statement of cooperation. If there are more than two partner NGOs, please make copies of the statement of cooperation for every group.

REC PROJECT NUMBER (to be filled in by the REC):	
Project title:	

Lead NGO Information

Name:			
Registration number:		Telephone:	
E-mail address:		Fax:	
Address:			
Project coordinator:			
Name of individual preparing this proposal (if different from above):			
Project duration (number of months):		Total project budget amount requested from the REC (in USD):	
Bank name:		Name of the account holder:	

Bank address:		Account number and SWIFT code:	
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide your project description, addressing each of the three points below. Limit the description to two A4 pages.

1. Identify and describe the Danube basin-related issue (focusing on nutrient and toxics reduction) your project will address and specify why it is a problem for each of the partner countries. Explain how this problem relates to the environmental issues mentioned in the grants announcement. When describing the environmental problem please refer to the list of topics given in the announcement and describe which heading your project falls under (i.e. land-use and agriculture, water management, industry or municipal issues).
2. Describe the actions you will take to address this environmental issue and provide a timeline for completing these tasks. The project implementation timeline should not exceed 13 months from the starting date (January 2006). The goals, objectives and expected results of the project should be clearly specified.
 - i. Indicate the methods or approaches identified in the announcement that you intend to employ.
 - ii. Indicate the tools you will apply to this approach. Please refer to the explanations provided in the announcement about each of the tools.
3. Estimate the total budget for the project. Explain how much will be required from the REC and how much funding you have from other sources. Regional grants are up to USD 35,000 each. In exceptional cases (proposals that involve more than three NGOs, require some form of construction or involve networking) the amount can exceed this limit by 50 percent (i.e. a total of USD 50,000).



Danube Regional Project

Regional Grants – Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO Regional Environmental Projects

PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT REQUEST

In order to assist you in preparing the full proposal, the REC offers up to USD 1,500 to cover travel, hotel and meal costs for a meeting between the partners. NGOs are expected to absorb any costs that exceed this amount. The REC does not pay per diems. Because the REC encourages the use of the most environmentally friendly form of transportation, travel to the meeting by train, bus or car should be considered in this order. Air travel will only be accepted when the travel distance is very large.

Estimate the costs of partner travel, accommodation and food up to a **total of USD 1,500**. Do **not** include per diems.

Item	Cost
Travel: (names of those travelling, destination, price)	
Accommodation: (# of people X # of nights X price)	
Food: (# of people X # of meals X price)	
Total	

Please sign and date this concept paper:

Signature of project coordinator (if your NGO has an official stamp, please stamp here)	Date:



Danube Regional Project Regional Grants – Second Round

Call for Danube Basin-related NGO Regional Environmental Projects

STATEMENT OF COOPERATION

Project title:	
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Statement:

By signing this statement of cooperation, we agree to work together throughout the project’s preparation and implementation. If this concept paper is approved, we plan to meet and develop the full proposal. If the proposal is selected, we shall implement the project together. We agree that the lead NGO is responsible for communicating and presenting all materials to the REC. The lead NGO is also responsible for the project’s overall management.

Partner NGO Information

Name:			
Registration number:		Telephone:	
E-mail address:		Fax:	
Postal address:			
Name of the project coordinator of the partner NGO:			
Signature and date: (please stamp your name)			
Name of the project coordinator of the lead NGO:			
Signature and date: (please stamp your name)			

Note: If more than two organisations are cooperating on this project, please copy the statement of cooperation as needed. The lead NGO should send the signed statements to each partner NGO(s) for signature. The partner NGO(s) should return the signed statements to the lead NGO, who will include them in the concept paper package.

Danube Regional Project (DRP)

**REGIONAL GRANTS
PROGRAMME**
(SECOND ROUND)

**GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING
FULL PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL
DRP GRANTS**

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Note: These guidelines are intended for use by those NGOs whose concept papers have already been approved.

INTRODUCTION TO THE REC

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The REC fulfils this mission by encouraging cooperation among non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, by supporting the free exchange of information and by promoting public participation in environmental decision-making.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of twenty-five countries and the European Commission, and on an international agreement with the Government of Hungary. The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices in each of its 15 beneficiary CEE countries which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro and two field offices in Kosovo and Banja Luka.

The REC assists environmental NGOs, governments, businesses, and other environmental stakeholders in fulfilling their role in a democratic, sustainable society.

Recent donors are the European Commission and the governments of the United States, Japan, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as other inter-governmental and private institutions.

The REC works in nine programme areas:

1. Environmental capacity building
2. Information dissemination
3. NGO support
4. Business and environment
5. Local initiatives
6. Public participation
7. Environmental policy
8. Climate change
9. Environmental law

INTRODUCTION

In cooperation with UNDP/GEF the REC is offering Danube Regional Project (DRP) regional grants to the NGOs of the Danube Basin region.

These grants will help NGOs to manage projects that:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilizers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPIC

The environmental issues that the DRP regional grants must address are related to the deterioration of groundwater and the eutrophication of surface water (stemming from both point and non-point sources of pollution from agriculture, industry and municipal sectors), as well as problems related to land-use and wastewater management.

Grants will be awarded to NGO projects addressing the following nutrient and toxic substances pollution-related issues:

Agriculture:

- Introduce and apply best agricultural practices related to avoiding, minimising and/or control of non-

point sources of pollution in groundwater and/or surface waters.

- Contribute to policy work (EU directives, SAPARD, common agriculture policies).
- Promote eco-farming methods and alternative rural development.

Industry:

- Promote best available technology, reporting requirements on pollutant release and transfer registers, and environmental management systems.
- Assist in reducing the risk of accidental release of pollutants from facilities.
- Address toxic-substances pollution (point emissions from chemical and paper industries).
- Promote production and use of phosphate-free detergents.
- Address (alternative) treatment methods and/or practices that lead to efficient removal of nutrients and toxic substances.

Municipality:

- Address household waste management (e.g. reduce the use of conventional detergents).
- Address urban wastewater collection and treatment (e.g. build constructed wetlands in rural areas).

Land-use and wetlands:

- Address flood management, irrigation, and drainage with attention to the associated pollution effects.
- Save and protect the natural flood plains (buffer strips).
- Support the conservation and restoration of floodplain and wetland habitat.

Those NGOs whose concept papers have been selected are invited to prepare and submit a full proposal with the involvement of their partners.

The *Trans-boundary Analysis* produced within the framework of the GEF/UNDP Danube Pollution Reduction Programme 1999 is available at the ICPDR website <www.icpdr.org>. We suggest NGOs use

this information source on pollution and methods to address it in different parts of the Danube River basin. The publication contains maps with information on the pollution hotspots, wetlands and other useful pollution data generated in different pollution sectors such as municipalities, agriculture, industry, land-use and wetlands.

The REC hosts a website <www.rec.org> in which more information about the pollution problems, and the ways to address them, are presented. The website also offers some example solutions for NGOs to follow. We highly recommend that NGOs visit this website when drafting their proposals.

Proposal preparation

NGOs whose concept papers are passed to the full proposal stage can be awarded a project preparation grant (or “start-up” grant) of up to USD 1,500. This amount aims to cover some of the costs incurred by NGOs when meeting their partners and preparing a full proposal with them.

The REC provides guidelines to assist NGOs in the preparation of full proposals. **All project partners** are requested to attend the preparation meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

The DRP regional grants are administered from the REC’s Head Office. This involves:

- announcing the call for proposals, issuing guidelines, limitations and eligibility requirements;
- assisting NGOs by answering questions and providing information;
- organising an expert panel that includes experts from outside the REC to analyse and rate the proposals;
- supporting NGOs in implementing their projects by providing advice on budgeting, reporting, etc.; and
- offering opportunities for promoting the final results of NGO projects.

ELIGIBILITY

Registered NGOs in the Danube countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro may apply for a regional environmental grant. The NGOs should have an environmental focus and an NGO bank account. The NGOs should have a cooperation agreement with at least one other partner (in another eligible country).

In addition, NGOs applying for DRP regional grants are expected to meet the following criteria:

- a. competence and readiness to develop an international project of up to two years (24 months);
- b. commitment to cooperating with partners from other countries or sub-regions;
- c. proven track record in project management;
- d. experience with water, agriculture or nutrient issues (preferred);
- e. English-language capability (project leader must speak English); and
- f. access to office equipment and facilities.

Cooperation with local and regional authorities as well as the business sector is also encouraged and will be positively evaluated during grant awarding, although the stakeholders cannot benefit directly from this grant.

LIMITATIONS

Grants will not support projects that focus on:

- a) pure research or scientific work (unless they are linked to other aspects of the project);
- b) purely operational expenditures (such as salaries or rent; or the purchase of land, buildings);
- c) investments; and/or
- d) vehicles (not related to the project).

NGOs can benefit from only one grant per call. It is conceivable that one specific NGO is approved at the concept paper stage both as a project leader and a project partner on two separate projects (or as a project partner on two separate projects). In this case, the NGO can receive only one

grant from the REC at the **full proposal stage** (as lead or partner NGO).

- operational costs, including salaries and overheads should not reach more than 30 percent of the total budget (unless the nature of the project makes it absolutely necessary and it is properly justified in the proposal);
- services and purchases that include customs taxes or import charges and duties, including VAT;
- costs related to non-regional participants or travel outside of the grant region, except in the case of cooperation with a non-regional country where travel has been approved by the grant officer.

GRANT AMOUNT

DRP regional grants can be up to USD 35,000 each. In exceptional cases (proposals that involve more than three NGOs, require some form of construction or involve extended networking), the amount can exceed this limit by 50 percent (i.e. up to USD 50,000 maximum).

The REC encourages NGOs to seek matching or supporting funds from other sources.

PROJECT PERIOD

The DRP regional project period must not exceed 24 months and the implementation must start within two months of the award announcement. The project implementation is expected to start by January 2006 and finish by December 2007.

EVALUATION PROCESS

All full proposals received are pre-screened to ensure they meet the following requirements:

- At least two cooperative partners from different eligible countries are involved.
- Applicants are eligible to receive a cooperative grant (see Eligibility).
- The proposal is complete.

- The applications sent by mail are complete and include all original, signed documents and forms.

NOTE: The REC will not accept incomplete or late proposals.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals passing pre-screening are scored according to the following criteria.

Environmental impact

- Measurable results leading directly or indirectly to nutrient pollution reduction;
- Process and stress reduction indicators are clearly defined.

NGO approach/methodology

- Feasible and effective methods are used;
- Trans-boundary perspective/watershed approach are applied.

Cooperation

- Feasible regional/cross-border cooperation is demonstrated;
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation is involved.

Proposal quality

- Feasible and realistic action plan;
- Cost-effective budget.

Staff capability

- Staff experience and competence on the issue.

The REC country office and NIS partners will contribute to the evaluation with their comments on: the relevance of the issue to their particular country; the methods employed by the NGOs; and staff capacity.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified of the expert panel's decision no later than six weeks after the application deadline.

AWARD AGREEMENT

All award agreements are prepared in USD.

Grant winners are invited to Szentendre, Hungary, for a Winners' Meeting. At this meeting each lead NGO presents its project, and the NGOs meet the other grant winners and the REC grant and financial officers for training. Another important activity at the award meeting is the preparation of the award agreements. The award agreement states the approved budget for the grant, the disbursement schedule and the reporting requirements. When signed by both the grantee and the REC's executive director, the award agreement becomes a legal contract.

The award agreement also states that the project must be implemented as described in the grant application. If there is any significant change to the project proposal, it must be submitted and approved in writing by the REC grants officer before the change is implemented. Significant changes include: a budget difference of any line item greater than 10 percent, a change in the dates of project implementation and changes in the purpose of the project.

The award agreement must include the signatures of:

- The project coordinator, who signs on behalf of the NGO;
- Each cooperative partner (including the lead NGO), which sign sub-award agreements. This document describes the budget for that particular partner and serves as a contract between the lead NGO and the NGO cooperative partners; and
- The Executive Director of the REC, who signs on behalf of the donor organisation.

All signatures must be validated with the NGO stamp. With the signature of the Executive Director and the stamp of the REC, the award agreement is a legally binding document. Furthermore, the terms and conditions outlined in the guidelines and the call for projects are legally binding.

PRE-CONDITIONS

In many cases pre-conditions for a grant are set by the REC. These must be met by a deadline stated in the award letter and award agreement, before the first grant payment can be transferred.

GRANT PAYMENT

The NGOs must have separate bank accounts. Each partner NGO will receive separate payments based on the sub-award agreements.

Grant funds are transferred from the REC's account to the NGO's USD bank account. Grant payment cannot be made in cash or by cheque.

The funds are disbursed in USD in at least three instalments, based on the schedule included in the award documents and agreed at the winners' meeting. If there are budget pre-conditions, the NGO must prepare new budget summaries to be discussed at the winners' meeting.

The first payment of the grant is made when the pre-conditions have been met and the REC has received the signed award agreement and sub-award agreement(s). The next payments are made when the grants officer and financial assistant approve the progress reports. After the final report has been approved by the REC, the last 10 percent is paid to the NGO.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The lead NGO is responsible for submitting all project reports. Each NGO is required to prepare a narrative and financial report and send it to the project leader. The lead NGO should write a summary describing the activities of the partners in

the context of the entire project. Because it is a cooperative project, the REC is interested in hearing about the project as a whole. Before submitting the report to the REC, the lead NGO should review the individual reports to ensure they are complete. Copies of receipts must be included in the report. The project coordinator is responsible for the reporting of all cooperative partners.

The award agreement states the reporting requirements for each grant. All reports must be in English.

NGOs awarded DRP regional grants will receive full reporting instructions.

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Although the REC cannot increase the overall amount of a grant award, the budget made in the award agreement can be changed. If it is necessary to transfer more than 10 percent of one budget line to another budget line, the NGO needs written approval from the REC grants officer.

EQUIPMENT

When REC funds are used to purchase equipment:

- The purchased equipment must be in the REC's name.
- The award agreement states that the REC maintains ownership of the equipment for the entire duration of the project. During this period, the REC is "lending" the equipment to the NGO. At the end of the project, or if the NGO ceases to exist or no longer needs the equipment, all items of equipment (that cost more than USD 200) must be returned to the appropriate REC country office to be made available for use by another NGO.
- In the final report, the NGO may request to permanently retain the use of the equipment, stating by whom and for what purposes it would be used. The NGOs' performance concerning the grant is taken into consideration, as well as the information in the completed Equipment Accounting Form, when reviewing the request. If the request is approved, the NGO takes ownership of the equipment.

- In the unlikely event that the NGO is using the equipment improperly, (e.g. for a personal profit-making venture) the REC reserves the right to repossess the equipment immediately.

AUDITING

The REC's staff, Donor's representatives or independent audit firms may monitor project performance at any time. The REC reserves the right to review finances and expenditures at any time during the project period or up to one year after the project's completion. All original receipts must be kept on file for one year after the project has finished.

RETURNING FUNDS

If for any reason conditions are not met and funds have to be returned to the REC, the full amount plus a calculated average interest is demanded. The award agreement is a legal document, and the NGO and the REC should meet all requirements. In case of disagreement, Hungarian law is applicable, and the Hungarian Court of Justice in Budapest is used.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

All approved grant applications and their products are considered to be public domain. Any information resulting from grant projects is available for the public. NGOs are encouraged to develop project websites highlighting the results of the implemented projects and promoting them to other stakeholders.

If a project results in a publication, the grantee is requested to provide the REC country office with complimentary copies for further distribution.

Rejected proposals are not made available to the public unless the author gives the REC country office permission to make the application public.

ENDORSEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

Sponsorship by the donors of any proposal does not suggest their endorsement of the results. They assume no liability, expressed or implied, for damages arising from any activity of grantees. The

opinions expressed in connection with the project [or, publication] does not necessarily represent the policies or opinions of the donors.

GRANTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement of UNDP/GEF and REC support is appreciated. Any announcement published by the NGO, such as a newsletter article or conference brochure, should include an acknowledgement such as following:

“This grant is supported by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project”

USE OF REC AND DRP LOGOS

NGOs making use of the REC's and DRP logos on a publication, poster, T-shirt, stickers, etc, should contact to inform their REC Grants Officer. REC will forward the official logos to the NGO upon request. The logos should be used together with the above acknowledgement sentence.

VAT

The DRP grants will not cover services and purchases that include payment of customs or import charges and duties, including VAT.

FULL DRP PROPOSAL PREPARATION

The total funds requested usually exceed the amount of funds available. Therefore, applications are selected in a competitive process. The grants evaluation board established at the REC with the participation of independent experts evaluates the applications entirely on the basis of the submitted full proposal.

The full proposal must include the following items:

1. Proposal cover page (Appendix A);
2. Cooperative partner's information (Appendix B1) and Stakeholder's information (Appendix B2);
3. Logical framework (Appendix C);
4. Narrative description of the project (no template available);
5. Budget summary for the entire project (Appendix D1) and Budget Summaries for all partners (Appendix D2);
6. Budget justification by phase, activity and partner (Appendix E); and
7. Statement of Cooperation (Appendix F).

And support documentation:

- Description of the NGOs background;
- CVs of the project coordinator and all other key persons involved in the project (NGOs or other stakeholders);
- Co-sponsorship documentation; and
- Support documents from the stakeholders.

HOW TO APPLY

If your project is selected to proceed beyond the concept paper phase (details on what is required at the concept paper phase are provided in the 'Call for Projects'), the cooperative partners are requested to work together to prepare the full proposal application. The application should follow this order:

1. Proposal cover page

Appendix A must be clearly and fully completed by the lead NGO.

2. Cooperative partner information

2 a) NGO partners

Appendix B1 must be filled out. Each NGO must correctly fill out the required banking details.

2 b) Stakeholders

As emphasised throughout this application, proper identification and involvement of all key stakeholders in the project is required by the REC. Using Appendix B2, please fill out all the information required for each stakeholder separately.

Please explain, under "description of the role", each stakeholder's relation to the problem and in what way they will be involved in project implementation.

3. Logical framework approach and logframe matrix (Appendix C)

Prior to writing a detailed description of the project, several elements should be considered. The REC requires that applicants use the logical framework approach (LFA) to formulate and develop the project proposal, following the steps below. It is expected that the analysis and preparation of the logical framework (or logframe) will be done during the preparatory meeting, when the partner NGOs will meet together.

The results should be summarised in the logframe matrix (Appendix C). **Please keep the logframe matrix for the project to one page (the information in the table should be concise and specific).** However, detailed information about the project must be included in the narrative description (as explained later in this document).

The LFA is a tool for project design and management. It consists of two phases: the analysis phase and the planning phase. The output of the LFA is the logframe matrix, a table which shows the goals, objectives, outputs, and activities of the project, the indicators that will be used to evaluate the project, and the project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

How to develop a logical framework

Designing a project starts by defining the contours of the project's intervention area and making an inventory of all related problems. An analysis of the identified problems enables the relevant project parties to decide on the precise set of problems that will be addressed by the project and to select the key problem.

**Analysis phase:
problems→objectives→strategy**

The analysis phase normally starts with a basic idea generated by stakeholders related to an existing problem. The analysis should break this problem down into a set of smaller problems. The problems should be listed according to cause and effect.

Internal logic is the basis for the logical framework, which is designed during the analysis phase. It visualises the causal and hierarchical relations between project activities, project results, the project objectives and the overall goal.

The next step is for the project team to agree upon a project strategy. This is achieved by developing a series of solutions needed to attain the objectives, and choosing which objectives will be included in the project and which will not. The selected strategy and objectives then become the focus of the project and can be used to complete the logframe matrix.

The last step is to complete the logframe matrix. It is important to remember that the logframe matrix is not a form to be filled in but the result of careful analysis and reasoning, which must be done before filling in the boxes.

4. THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (NO FORMAT AVAILABLE)

When preparing the narrative description of the project, the project partners must elaborate by responding in detail to the questions below. There is no template document for this part of the proposal. The REC is expecting the NGOs to follow the order of the following questions, and to limit the description to not longer than eight pages (A4 format).

4.a) Project statement

- Which is/are the specific nutrient related problem(s) or needs the cooperative project

addresses? Why are they important? Are they significant for the countries involved? Why do the NGOs need to cooperate in addressing those?

4.b) Detailed project plan

Project goal

What is the general goal that the project will contribute to? How does the goal fit (integrate) into the overall objectives of the DRP grants component, which are:

- Directly contribute to the reduction of point and non-point sources of pollution;
- Contribute to overall improvement of the monitoring system;
- Address trans-boundary and/or national problems present in identified hotspots;
- Prevent pollution generation by increasing public awareness;
- Facilitate the flow of information to the public;
- Assist in the prevention of accidental pollution;
- Promote the production and use of phosphate-free detergents and organic fertilizers; and
- Aid democratic processes by ensuring public involvement and participation in decisions affecting environmental quality in the Danube River Basin.

Project objectives

- What are the specific objectives of the project? The objectives should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely), and set in accordance with the main goal of the project.
- How does the objectives help directly or indirectly to reduce the load of nutrients or toxic substances.

Activities/timeframe

- What activities will each of the partner NGOs undertake in order to reach the goal and objectives?
- How do they correspond to the suggested approaches and tools of this grants programme?
- What are the detailed steps to be taken for each activity, including which partner (NGOs and/or other stakeholders) will carry them out?
- How did you identify the stakeholders, and what is their relationship to the problem? In

what way are they going to be involved in project implementation?

- What is the timeframe of all planned activities per partner? An overall project time table indicating the time frame for each activity is expected.
- What is the stakeholder's contribution in the implementation of each activity?
- Who are the target group for each activity?
- Who are the beneficiaries of the activity?
- How does each activity contribute to achieving which objective?

Expected outputs and results

- What will be the results or outputs of the proposed activities?
- What are the expected impacts and benefits of the project, what positive changes will the project achieve?
- How does each of the countries involved benefit? How will you measure it?
- How will you determine whether your activities have achieved the objectives?
- What means will you use to determine how your project contributed to the overall programme goal?
- What qualitative and quantitative indicators will be used to measure the extent to which the project achieves the expected outcomes and effects? List them.
- What products will be produced during your project? List them.
- How will information resulting from the project be disseminated to the public?
- Are the results of the project sustainable?

4.c) Follow-up

- Do you plan follow-up activities? Describe them.
- Can the results of this project be used as a model for others? How?

5. BUDGET SUMMARY (APPENDIXES D1 AND D2)

Use Appendix D1 to outline the budget for the entire project and Appendix D2 for describing the Budgets of each of the partners. The forms must be clearly completed for the parts of the budget requested from the REC. The budget summaries (for the entire project and per partner), are based on the budget justification explained below and completed in the final stage of the budget preparations, after finalising the work with the Budget Justification (Appendix E) by partner and phase. State amounts in USD.

Include in the budget summary the overall amount committed by other donors to the project (if applicable).

6. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (APPENDIX E)

Each partner NGO must prepare a detailed budget justification for the project, which is the basis for preparing the budget summary. Each partner must use Appendix E to prepare the budget for each activity and then complete the budget breakdown per phase (Appendix D2). Furthermore, at the preparatory meeting the partners put everything together and complete the Summary Budget for the entire project (Appendix D1).

Please follow the guide below, and add any other details appropriate to your project.

I. Breakdown by partner

Each partner must prepare their own budget justifications, with the help of Appendix E, and then divide it in two phases.

II. Breakdown by phase

Most projects are long enough to be divided into phases. NGOs should decide how many months each project phase will take (the template provided by the REC includes two phases) and the activities that belong to each phase. Because the project is divided into two phases, NGOs must indicate the length (starting and ending date) of each phase. Each of the partners will prepare the budget required for each phase. If you have activities for which implementation bridges the phases, then split the activity costs accordingly.

III. Breakdown by activities

For each project activity, NGOs must provide a separate budget breakdown (Appendix E) for the costs in each budget line item by unit, unit cost, and number of units. You need to think of any possible cost that can occur when implementing project activities. The cost should then be placed under the appropriate budget item. For example, bus tickets go under travel, and paper goes under supplies.

Budget categories are as follows:

Stipends/salaries

Specify the amount of time (month or day) that the project coordinator and other staff will spend managing the project and their monthly/daily fees.

Consultants/contract personnel (for occasional work)

Each short-term service needed for this project should be placed under this budget item. Specify the amount of time (in months or days) and the unit cost.

Travel

List the number of trips, destinations, number of people travelling and the costs involved for their transportation.

Accommodation and food

Estimate the price of accommodation per person per night, per diem allowance per person, number of people staying and the number of days.

Equipment

Specify type of equipment, how much is needed of each and the price per unit. Also explain why the equipment is needed. According to the REC's financial rules, "equipment" is any item costing more than USD 200 and which is useful for more than one year. Furniture, computers and other machinery such as farm implements are examples of equipment. Software may be "equipment" depending on the value.

Supplies

List items and quantity, price estimation per item and purpose. Supplies include paper, floppy discs, calculators and upgrades to computers that are less than USD 200.

Communication costs

Estimate e-mail, telephone, fax and postage costs (preferable by month or project event).

Publication costs

Estimate the number of pages, number of copies, language, topic and cost per copy.

Translation services

Specify languages; estimate the number of hours or pages, fee per hour or page, purpose.

Other direct costs

Costs which do not fit any of the budget categories can be placed under "other direct costs" (e.g. rental of conference facility, office rent and utilities, etc.). Unjustified costs under this item will not be considered.

The REC does not cover contingency costs.

7. STATEMENTS OF COOPERATION (APPENDIX F)

Appendix F should indicate the commitment of the partner NGOs to take part in this project. The statement should be signed by both project coordinators of the lead and partner NGOs. The agreement should be signed with each of the Partner NGOs .

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS:

Descriptions of the NGO's backgrounds

Describe each of the involved NGO's backgrounds and capability to implement the project (with emphasis on the experience related to sustainable development).

CVs of project coordinators and all other key persons involved in the project

The REC requires documentation for the Project coordinators and other key experts to be involved in the project's implementation. Their names, addresses and a description of their roles or tasks in the project must be included in the description of the activities.

Curriculum vitae should include:

- Family name
- First name
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Nationality
- Current employer
- Years of experience in the field
- Key qualifications (relevant to the project)
- Education: Under this heading, summarise college/university and other specialised education, giving names of schools, dates attended and degrees obtained.
- Experience record: Under this heading, list all positions, locations, assignments, titles, dates and employers. Indicate the work undertaken which best demonstrates the person's ability to complete the project tasks.

Co-sponsorship documentation

Although it is not a requirement, you may consider using additional funds or in-kind support to cover project costs. If this is the case, you need to indicate this amount under Appendix D (Budget Summary for the entire project and the Budget Summaries for Partners). The REC is interested to know only about

additional funds for which donor commitment is secured. In-kind may include materials and supplies, work, communication, and so on.

Support documents from stakeholders

Stakeholders can be local or central authorities, business people, academics or community leaders among others. Any concerned party can play a stakeholder role in the project. The stakeholders are responsible to bring their contribution to the project according to the description and the timeframe given in the proposal, providing input for the activities on time as well as maintaining close cooperation with the other project stakeholders and beneficiaries. Support documents, intention letters and any kind of proof of the stakeholder's support should be included in the Proposal to indicate their commitment in the project. The satisfactory presentation of the stakeholder's commitment will influence the decision over your proposal.

Important NOTE about application:

The **deadline for submission of DRP full grant proposals is November 11, 2005**. Send the original proposal (unbound) to the REC Head Office in Szentendre, Hungary. The proposal must be received by post by the end of the day on November 11, 2005, or it will not be considered. Send copies of the proposal to the country office of your partner, as well as to your own, by the same deadline. Late applications or applications sent by **e-mail or fax will not be accepted**. All applications must be signed and stamped where requested.

For more information, interested parties should contact Richard Filcak at the REC Head Office (e-mail: Rfilcak@rec.org; tel: [36-26] 504-000; fax: [36-26] 311-294).

*For more information about applying for grants,
please contact our local representatives or the REC Head Office.*

Head Office:

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REC Offices in Danube Countries

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Tel: (387-33) 263- 050
Tel/fax: (387-33) 263-051, 209- 130
E-mail: nseremet@rec.org.ba
Contact: Enisa Pulic

BANJA LUKA FIELD OFFICE
Slavka Rodica 1, 78000
Banja Luka, RS, BiH
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Tel: (359-2) 983-4817
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E-mail: rec-bulgaria@rec.org
Website: www.rec.org
Contact: Ms. Desislava Stefanova

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Contact: Vlado Hudek

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E-mail: rec-slovenia@guest.arnes.si
www.rec-lj.si
Contact: Julija Skarabot

SERBIA and MONTENEGRO
Palata Beograd
Primorska 31
11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
Tel: (381-11) 329 2899
Fax: (381-11) 329 3020
E-mail: officr@recyu.org
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NIS Partners:

REC Moldova
57/1, Banulescu Bodoni St., office 110
2005 Chisinau,
Moldova
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Fax: (373-2) 238-686
E-mail: recmd@moldova.md
Home page: <http://www.rec.moldova.md>



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APPENDIX A – DRP GRANT PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

Danube Regional Project (DRP) Regional Grant Application – Second Round Proposal Cover Page			
Project title:			
Lead NGO information			
Name of NGO			
Registration		Tel:	
E-mail address		Fax:	
Address (include country)			
Project coordinator			
Dates of project period	Start date: day - month - year	End date: day - month - year	
Brief description of the project (one paragraph)			
Products to be developed			
Total budget of project (USD): (include other donations, their status, and in-kind support)		Amount requested from the REC (USD):	
Bank info (name, address, account holder, account number, swift code)	Bank name: Account holder: Account number: SWIFT Code:		
To be filled in by the REC	Date received	Responsible grant officer Keyword	
Decision			

Use extra sheets where necessary

APPENDIX B 1 - COOPERATIVE PARTNER INFORMATION

Please fill in the information for each cooperative partner. It is helpful to include the information for the lead NGO as well. Each partner should sign and stamp their information.
Copy this form as necessary.

DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round <i>Cooperative Partner Information</i>
Lead NGO name and registration number:
Project coordinator:
Address:
Phone number, fax, e-mail:
Bank information:
Bank name and address:
Account number of NGO:
Account holder name:
Swift code:

First partner NGO name and registration number:
Project coordinator:
Address:
Phone number, fax, e-mail:
Bank information:
Bank name and address:
Account number of NGO:
Account holder name:
Swift code:

Note: Add boxes for more partners



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APPENDIX B 2 – STAKEHOLDER'S INFORMATION

Please fill in the information for each stakeholder from every country involved. Each partner should sign and stamp their information.
Copy this form as necessary per country.

DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round Stakeholder's Information	
Country	
Stakeholders	
Stakeholder 1	Organisation/entity
	Name of the contact person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:
Stakeholder 2	Organisation/entity
	Name of the involved person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:
Stakeholder 3	Organisation/entity
	Name of the involved person and position
	Address (include country):
	Telephone and fax number:
	E-mail
	Description of the role:

DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round

You should not modify the forms, but you can type the data into the appropriate boxes.

Preferably, the logframe should not exceed 1 page.

	The project	Indicators of achievement	Stakeholders/ beneficiaries
a. Project goal (overall objective)	What is the goal to which the project will contribute?	What are the key indicators related to the overall objective?	What are the long-term partnerships this project will bring about? Who are the long-term beneficiaries of this project?
b. Project objectives	What are the specific objectives of the project?	What are the quantitative or qualitative indicators showing whether and to what extent the project's specific objectives are achieved?	Who are the strategic partners (stakeholders) required to achieve each of the objectives?
c. Expected outputs and results	What are the concrete outputs envisaged to achieve the specific objectives? What are the envisaged effects and benefits of the project? What improvements and changes will be produced by the project?	What are the indicators to measure the extent to which the project achieves the envisaged results and effects?	Who are the beneficiaries of the project results? Who will further use the project outputs?
d. Activities	What are the key activities to be carried out and in what sequence in order to produce the expected results?	What are the methods and approaches used to implement each of the activities?	Who will participate in the project activities? What will be their contribution?

APPENDIX D 1 - BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT – SECOND ROUND

<p>DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round Budget Summary for the Entire Project (in USD)</p>
--

Project title			
Lead NGO			
Name of NGO			
Registration number:		E-mail:	
Telephone number:		Fax number:	
Address (include country):			
Project coordinator			
Dates of project period	Start date:	day-month-year	End date: day-month-year

Direct Costs:

Line Items	Phase I	Phase II	Total USD
Stipends/salaries			
Equipment			
Travel			
Per diem			
Supplies			
Consultants/contract personnel			
Publication costs			
Translation services			
Communication costs			
Other direct costs (please specify)			
Total requested from the REC:	USD	USD	USD
Other funding organisations Please indicate amount and status of their support.			USD
Total project budget: (REC + additional funds)			USD

Please sign and stamp this budget summary. Signature will validate the document.



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APPENDIX D2 - BUDGET SUMMARY FOR PARTNERS

DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round
Budget Summary for Partners
Every partner, including the lead partner, must complete a budget summary
(in USD)

Project title			
Partner NGO			
Name of NGO			
Registration number:		E-mail:	
Telephone number:		Fax number:	
Address (include country):			
Project coordinator			
Dates of project period	Start date:	day-month-year	End date: day-month-year

Direct costs for your part of the project:

Line Items	Phase I	Phase II	Total USD
Stipends/salaries			
Equipment			
Travel			
Per diem			
Supplies			
Consultants/contract personnel			
Publication costs			
Translation services			
Communication costs			
Other direct costs (please specify)			
Total requested from the REC:	USD	USD	USD
Other funding organisations Please indicate amount and status of their support.			USD
Total project budget: (REC + additional funds)			USD

Each partner should sign and stamp the budget summary for their part of the budget. Signature will validate the document.

(copy as necessary)



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APPENDIX E - BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

**DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round
Budget Justification**

*Every partner, including the lead partner, must complete a budget justification for each activity per phase requested from the REC
(in USD)*

Partner NGO:

Phase:

Activity:

REC budget item	Description	Unit cost/personnel cost	Number of units/work time	Requested from the REC (USD)	Other support/in-kind contribution (USD)
Stipends/ salary					
Equipment					
Travel					
Accommodation and food					
Supplies					
Consultants/ contract personnel					
Publication costs					
Translation services					
Communication costs					
Other direct costs (specify)					
TOTAL (USD) Activity					

Note:

- This form should be copied and filled out for each of the project activities and for each phase requested from the REC. Should an activity run through two phases, then the costs should be split accordingly and two of these forms prepared.
- Under “description” please give a detailed explanation about the budgeted amount. Example: (1) for consultants/ contracted personnel you need to specify each of the contracted experts or organisations in relation to the respective activity; (2) For travel, specify the name of the person travelling, destination and the means of transport.

APPENDIX F - STATEMENT OF COOPERATION

DRP Regional Grant Application – Second Round Statement of Cooperation	
Project title:	

Statement:

By signing this statement of cooperation, we agree to work together in implementing this project if the proposal is selected according to the task description provided in the project proposal. We all agree that the project coordinator of the **lead NGO** is responsible for coordinating the overall project management among partners and the REC, presenting all of the materials and reports to the REC on time.

During the project implementation the **partner NGO** is responsible for managing their part of the project according to the description and the timeframe given in the proposal, preparing accurate finances and reporting to the lead NGO on time as well as maintaining close cooperation with the other project partners.

Partner NGO information

Name of the organisation:			
Registration number:		Phone number:	
E-mail address:		Fax number:	
Address:			
Name of the project coordinator (partner NGO)			
Signature and date: (please stamp):			
Name of the project coordinator (lead NGO):			
Signature and date (please stamp your name):			

(copy as necessary)

Note: If more than two organisations intend to cooperate on this project, please make copies of the statement of cooperation as necessary. Both lead and partner NGOs should sign and stamp this statement at the project preparation meeting. The document should be submitted in its original with the full proposal package.

NGO Project Summary Report for Regional Projects

REC Project: #21719

Grant Topic: Tisza sub basin - pollution
prevention & reduction

Donor: UNDP/GEF

Project Title: “Barriers and bridges” – Barriers to waste, nutrients and chemicals; Bridges for communities, sectors and for information

Lead NGO: Holocén Nature Conservation Organization

NGO Contact information:

H-3525 Miskolc, Kossuth u. 13.; Phone/fax: +36 46 508 944; stoll@holocen.hu; www.holocen.hu

Project leader: László Stoll

Cooperative NGO Partners and Countries:

- Silvanus Ecological Association - Romania
- Dialóg for the Communities Public Interest Association - Hungary

Grant Awarded: 28 000 USD

Project Duration: 12 months (01/01/2006 – 31/12/2006)

Background of the problem:

Growing amount of waste, wastewater and its inappropriate management. The growing rate of endangered areas, settlements by floods and related phenomena. • Lack of environmental awareness and consciousness. • No any or minimal participation of public in environmental processes, no any or minimal co-operation among local stakeholders. • Lack of exact information about environmental attitude of residents – problems, ideas, plans, wishes, actual demand and necessities related to their close and broader environment and about their consumption habits.

These problems – unfortunately - are common in the whole Tisza sub basin like in the target areas of our project (in the Hernád- and Sebes-Körös-valley), and have an important influence on the water quality of the Danube watershed.

Goal and objectives of the project:

Encourage the co-operation of local residents, municipalities, institutions, civil organisations, and government offices alongside the river Hernád and Körös, identify problems and search for joint solutions in order to achieve the main targets of the Water Framework Directive – appropriate ecological water conditions till 2015.

- Research on the environmental attitude of people and households in the target areas, • Induce local initiatives, • Improve civil environmental knowledge, • Strengthen the lobbying ability of the target groups, • Support the public discussion, • Help the process of building and strengthening democracy, the cooperation of locals, • Improve the quality of the environment and the welfare of locals in the target areas, • Co-operations for the prevention, reduction and management of pollution, • Encourage possible next steps and further co-operations.

Methodology and strategy:

During the process of information gathering and identification of possible target groups, partners to involve we could also find out what kind of information is important and/or interesting for our target groups. We have added these themes to the originally planned – mainly water related issues - training materials. (*Water – pollution; Wetlands; River Coalition - a possible way of PP; Implementation of WFD in Hungary; the Aarhus Convention; Climate change; GMOs*).

The trainings and conference were organized at Kalotaszentkirály for all kind of stakeholders interested in water and public participation issues.

TIME: 02/12/2007

Prepared by: project partners, finalized by László Stoll

Two different surveys were carried out - for inhabitants and for local governments - to gather information about consumption patterns, knowledge about natural waterbodies, about drinking water service, about wastewater treatment service and about housekeeping habits, about community development at the target areas. (*compile and edit surveys, distribution and collection of surveys, interviewing, data processing and evaluation, complete study*).

With the involvement of citizens and schools the waste carried away by floods, or by the normal stream of the rivers and creeks has been collected. We decided to add selective waste collection to our activities. In addition to the seven composting place, two selective waste deposit were constructed.

Connected to our activities several publications have edited, printed and distributed: *Selective waste collection; Composting; Housekeeping practices (especially water use); Water Framework Directive - Public participation; Ten advice – water use; bookmark/liner for children (with water issues); stickers – for World Wetland Day, Earth Day; Frosch – environmental friendly – sample packages* also distributed.

In co-operation with the Environmental Education Center of Miskolc City we have organized lectures for students and for adults. Presentation materials on CDs distributed to schools and NGOs.

To establish youth river monitoring groups we were purchasing water monitoring instruments. (*minilabs, a refill packages, microscopes, binoculars, water exploring kits, mini meteorological station, thermometers, magnifiers, insect examiners.*) Training were organized for teachers involved, data recording sheets and classifiers prepared, printed.

Competition series were organized for children both in Romania and in Hungary. Participant student were writing essays, drawing pictures, and took part at the competition. Romanian partners were invited to Miskolc. Youth monitoring groups (3 RO + 3 HU) gave a presentation about their work, lectures were given, a common international competition and a fieldtrip were organized. At summer a Camp for 20 students from the 3 schools involved to this program – main topic: water-water pollution.

The closing Conference at the Romanian target area organized at Kalotaszentkirály, and at Felsővadász in Hungary. All the involved partners, schools, local governments presented their “annual report” about the activities done in the frame of the project.

Achievements/Outcomes (with specific examples when possible):

- Gathered information, documents in connection of the EU accession, low harmonization process.
- Identified target groups, beneficiaries and participants involved, trained, their knowledge about environmental raised.
- More than 150 surveys filled out, received back and evaluated.
- Field trips organized to find illegal dumps, the amount of waste collected (more than 200, 50 liters plastic bags filled), 2 selective waste deposit, 6 composting places done, 8 lectures given, 250 leaflets distributed. Home etiquette (ten advice) printed, distributed, lectures given, Frosch sample packages introduced, distributed.
- Altogether 21 lectures given in different schools during the project. Presentation materials written, edited, put on CDs, distributed to 50 teachers.
- Purchased mini-laboratories and other monitoring instruments, continuous monitoring of the rivers, creeks by the 3-3 monitoring groups, dozens of sampling, presentation materials, photos made by the groups. 4+1 competition and the summer camp successfully organized with active participation of schools. Prizes, charters purchased distributed.

Products/Outputs Developed:

Printed, electronic materials: • 5 different leaflets (500 copies) • household practice posters (200 copies) • bookmarkers (300 copies) • stickers (300 copies) • A/3 posters (50 copies) • presentation materials, CDs (50 pieces) • website updated; Other: • Frosch sample packages - (50 packages) • composting frames (7 pieces) • selective waste collecting places (2 places) • more than a hundred paintings, drawings, arts exhibited, made by the students • evaluated surveys • fulfilled monitoring documentations • hundreds of photos, some video

Follow Up:

Both Silvanus and Holocén still giving lectures, monitoring rivers with the groups using the minilaboratories purchased.

Holocen organized the General Assembly of DEF at Miskolc 2-4th February 2007 (68 participants from the 13 Danube country) – our program were also introduced. • Silvanus become the member of Danube Environmental

TIME: 02/12/2007

Prepared by: project partners, finalized by László Stoll

Forum. • Both Silvanus and Holocen decided to organize Danube Art master competition and International Danube Day at the target areas.

We are still working together as partners – having successful common project for the year 2007, also waiting for the evaluation of proposal landed to organize an international summer camp.



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

NGO Project Summary Report for Regional Projects

REC Project: # 21722

Grant Topic: Policy work (EU WFD)

Donor: UNDP/GEF Danube Regional project

Project Title: Strengthening NGO participation in EU WFD implementation in Sava River Basin

Lead NGO: Green Action

NGO Contact information:

Project leader: Irma Popović

Cooperative NGO Partners and Countries: DPPVN-Slovenia, COOR-B&H, DEF Serbia

Grant Awarded: 49,882.28 USD

Project Duration: January 1st, 2006 – December 31st, 2006

Background of the problem:

<Please write two or three sentences which explain: - what is the main environmental problem which this project is addressing?>

On one hand the project addressed lack of proper public involvement in the process WFD implementation and water management in Sava River Basin and on the other the lack of education of national NGOs and other interested parties in terms of water related European legislation. NGO community in the Sava River Basin was reinforced and become capable of influencing the whole process in serious and respectable way.

Goal and objectives of the project:

< This part is indicating the goals and objectives as stated in the proposal. We prefer you to write them in bullet points>

TIME: January/15/2007

1

Prepared by: Project Team

The main goal of the project is to increase public participation in the management planning for the Sava River Basin, as well to push national water policies more forward to Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation. Project objectives are as follows:

1. To establish cooperation between NGO community and International Sava River Basin Commission.
2. To become watchdog regarding implementation provision of the WFD in the Sava Basin securing information flow, consultation and active involvement of the NGOs.
3. To publish results of all national and international project/initiatives related to the Sava River management that has been finished or that are on going, with purpose of making them available to the public and forming clearer picture of efforts and achievements in this region. On such way we will facilitate the flow of information to the public.
4. To strength capacities of NGO sector to take part in the river basin management planning.
5. To assist governmental authorities in developing Public Participation Strategy for the Sava River Basin management planning.
6. To established International Sava River NGO Committee.

Methodology and strategy:

<Please describe the methods/ approaches of your work during the project implementation using the NGO tools and approaches mentioned in the Grants Announcement. E.g. Involving the public: and than describe shortly (two sentences) where and what? or Organizing public meetings: the targets and what did you get out of the meetings (One – two sentences). Do not repeat the text of the proposal but refer to the impact of the activities!>

▪ Networking and partnership of NGOs on national and international level

NGOs from Sava watershed area gathered first in each Sava country at national meeting to discuss NGO involvement in Sava River Basin Management Planning. After establishing International Sava River NGO Committee regional NGO cooperation improved in qualitative and quantitative way and new partnership with purpose of influencing water management in SRB was created.

▪ Lobbying and involving other stakeholders

Apart form improving NGO involvement in Sava River Basin Management Planning also cooperation with other stakeholders was initiated (ISRBC, Directorates of Water Management, Ministries of Environmental protection, Institutes for Nature protection....)

▪ Dissemination of information and awareness raising

Information on project activities and results were distributed through different electronic (radio, TV, Web portals and web sites) and paper media (magazines and

bulletins). In this way public awareness on WFD topic was raised within and out of the Sava River Basin as well.

▪ **Environmental education and trainings.**

At national trainings participated NGOs and representatives of relevant state institutions (Directorate for water management and Ministry of environmental protection) as well as ISRBC. Apart from NGOs and ISRBC at international meeting participated also representatives of DRP, ICPDR and REC. Overall result of all meetings is joint NGO initiative for participating in Sava River Basin Management Planning and WFD implementation expressed in adopted Declaration and welcomed by ISRBC.

Achievements/Outcomes (with specific examples when possible):

<Please give the list of the significant results/ achievements/ outcomes for the project implementation. Do not provide extensive info about the achievements since you do that in the Narrative part of the report, just give the ones which prove you reached the objectives.>

- Information on ongoing projects in SRB as well as info on International Sava River Basin Commission collected and disseminated
- Awareness of NGO sector on WFD issue in Sava basin raised and capacity for NGO participation in water management planning in Sava basin strengthened
- International Sava River NGO Committee established and recognized by ISRBC as relevant NGO body for PP issue
- Green Action gained observes status with ISRBC
- Public Participation Strategy drafted

Products/Outputs Developed:

<Please list the products developed within the time frame of the Project E.g.: leaflets, booklets, posters etc.>

Brochure: River Sava – Our Common Heritage

Follow Up:

<Please give some explanations about the up coming activities, which will follow up. You should explain the up coming activities in the second phase of the project and their implementation timing if this is a Progress Report. We expect you to write about the future plans, which will follow up the current project if this is the Final Report.

NGO Committee will continue to work and is expected to become a permanent body that will continue to cooperate with Sava Commission.



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

NGO Project Summary Report for Regional Projects

REC Project: # 21724

Grant Topic: Danube Regional Project, Round II

Donor: Regional Environmental Center, UNDP, GEF

Project Title: Cross-sectoral Cooperation for Good Water Quality Management on Lower Danube Farms

Lead NGO: Association for Integrated Rural Development

NGO Contact information: 21 Hristo Belchev Str, floor 6, office 80, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Project leader: Julia Grigorova

Cooperative NGO Partners and Countries: Romanian Ornithological Association, Romania

Grant Awarded: **29 970 USD**

Project Duration: January - December 2006

Background of the problem:

<Please write two or three sentences which explain: - what is the main environmental problem which this project is addressing?>

The main environmental problem, which this project is addressing, is water pollution from agricultural activities. Nitrates are easily distributed from waters and they may cause negative effects to a whole catchment's area or river basin, including eutrophication, pollution of surface, ground and underground waters. Some of these waters are source of drink and fresh waters, other are used in agriculture again. It means that in this way pollutions endanger human's health, biodiversity, environment and the balance of ecosystems.

Goal and objectives of the project:

< This part is indicating the goals and objectives as stated in the proposal. We prefer you to write them in bullet points>

The overall project goal is the reduction of water pollution caused by agriculture in the Lower Danube basin in the long-term.

- Objective 1: Two model farms for good water quality management creation;
- Objective 2: Contribution to water-agricultural policy development;
- Objective 3: Cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform establishment;

TIME: January/10/2007

Prepared by: Julia Grigorova - project coordinator

- Objective 4: Communication and promotion of project activities at each step, dissemination of information and project results;

Methodology and strategy:

<Please describe the methods/ approaches of your work during the project implementation using the NGO tools and approaches mentioned in the Grants Announcement. E.g. Involving the public: and than describe shortly (two sentences) where and what? or Organizing public meetings: the targets and what did you get out of the meetings (One – two sentences).

Do not repeat the text of the proposal but refer to the impact of the activities!>

Involve other stakeholders end environmental education and training:

- Pleven (Bulgaria) two days seminar (20-21 March) “Opportunity for reduction of water pollution and applying the environmentally friendly practices in Danube River Basin”, where were 85 representatives from ministries of agriculture and environment; Danube river basin directorate, agricultural advisory services, farmer’s associations, environmental NGOs, local and district authorities;
- Three training farmers’ workshops were organized (2-7June) “Financial opportunities for development of environmentally friendly agricultural practices” in Dolna Mitropolia, Guliantzi and Levski municipalities. The training aim capacity building for agricultural producers to participate in the agri-environmentally activities and apply Good farming practices. Workshops achieved constantly increasing farmers’ awareness and knowledge for the farm practices impacts on the environment, focusing on soil, water and biodiversity, and how to adapt these practices to the current environmental state, in order to obtain positive results of common significance (simultaneously social, economical, political and environmental);
- “Discussion on DRP project implementation (2 December), GFP and National Agri-environmental Programme, RDP 2007-2013” – how DRP project have impact the region and ongoing activities;
- Romanian seminar has been organized on 25th of May 2006 with the support of Braila County Council. There were 30 farmers and representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Water Management, National Agency for Agriculture Consultancy;
- The second Romanian seminar has been organized on 26th of June 2006 in partnership with the Braila County Council, at “Lacul Sarat” resort, near Braila city. The target group of this seminar was mayors. During the meeting mayors proves not to be informed about WFD or CAP impact over Danube water quality. The project results have been disseminated between participants and they took notes about the framework of integrated management of water-agricultural relations in the Danube River Basin. Priorities and plans in terms of the institutional/organizational responsibilities has been debated and discussed during this seminar;

Contribute to policy work at the national level:

- Meeting in Bulgarian MAF (17 February) between all concerned stakeholders for coordinated activities about GAP policy implementation. We’ve got out of this meeting achieved dialogue, based on the information, experience and opinions on the current environmental state, and related to it issues, including EU and national policy and legislation, in order to discuss the appropriate GAP policy implementation, adapted accordingly to the local conditions and needs to make it successful to the highest degree;
- Guidelines of manure management for Braila County (Romania) as a first step in WFD implementation. This guideline starts with putting together the recommendations formulated for the selected farm – as a small – medium size farm and continues to develop guideline for larger livestock units and communal platforms;
- Farm story step by step and check list for DRP monitoring have been develop during the project monitoring process with representatives from Bulgarian NAAS;

Achievements/Outcomes (with specific examples when possible):

<Please give the list of the significant results/ achievements/ outcomes for the project implementation. Do not provide extensive info about the achievements since you do that in the Narrative part of the report, just give the ones which prove you reached the objectives.>

- Working model farm for GFP implementation – in Bulgarian DRP farm have been used within practical agri-environmental training courses;
- GFP monitoring control check list and farmer handbook;
- Practical conditions for decrease of water pollutions caused by agriculture in the Lower Danube basin - raised public awareness and farmers education for water conservation and pollution reduction;

Products/Outputs Developed:

<Please list the products developed within the time frame of the Project E.g.: leaflets, booklets, posters etc.>

- Set of Good Farming Practices adapted to a specific farm;
- Check list for control and monitoring;
- GFP farmer handbook;
- Presentation of Code of GAP, NVZ action programme, organic farming and National agri-environmental programme – opportunities for water conservation from agricultural pollution (Power Point presentations);
- Media publications and articles – press releases for the project goal and activities, two radio emissions, TV performances, articles related to project activities has been published in the local newspapers in Romania and Bulgaria; SOR (www.clicknet.ro/danube) and AIRD (www.aird-bg.com) web sites and it has been also introduced on WWF-DCP web-site http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/index.cfm?uNewsID=61460;
- Guideline of manure management for Braila County;

Follow Up:

<Please give some explanations about the up coming activities, which will follow up. You should explain the up coming activities in the second phase of the project and their implementation timing if this is a Progress Report. We expect you to write about the future plans, which will follow up the current project if this is the Final Report.

- Model farm will proceed to serve as a training model within further training courses, environmental elaborations and developments and result will be disseminated at the other farms;
- Check-list for monitoring used from control authorities, units and farmers for their own information. It should be further approved and adopted at working level, according its long-term practical value and importance as effective assessment and control tool;
- Dissemination of information about the overall project implementation and completion. It will challenge further constant information exchange, proving the use of its availability.

NGO Project Summary Report for Regional Projects

REC Project: 21727

Grant Topic: "Danube Regional Project"

Donor: UNDP/GEF, REC

Project Title: Preserving the water by promoting diapers friendly for earth and baby

Lead NGO: Association Storklja – Združenje Štorklja

NGO Contact information: projekti@storklja.si or spelca@storklja.si

Project leader: dr. sc. Špelca Morojna

Cooperative NGO Partners and Countries: RODA, Croatia

Project leader: Anita Jovanov

Grant Awarded: 35.000 USD

Project Duration: 01. 01. 2006 – 31.12.2006

Background of the problem:

Project is addressing pollution problem-ecological and chemical status of the water in the Danube basin, specially preserving waters and environment in Slovenia and Croatia and emphasizes awareness-raising, environmental education, policy issues and public participation in decision making related to specific pollution problem of using disposable diapers. Production, transport and everyday use of disposable diapers causes great drinking water and environmental pollution.

Goal and objectives of the project:

PROJECT GOALS:

- to increase environmental awareness among public
- active participation in preserving clean environment and waters in Danube basin by promoting and enlarging the use of ecological friendly washing detergents and reusable cotton diapers

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- contribution to the nutrient reduction in the Danube water basin by increased No. of cotton diapers and ecological washing agents from 2% to 5%.
- increased environmental awareness among public by facilitate the flow of information to the public
- sustainable and effective cooperation with NGO's and with REC/CDPR.

TIME: 01/13/2007

Prepared by: Spelca Morojna, Anita Jovanov, Mojca Fürst

Methodology and strategy:

- Questionnaire has been set on www. pages of **both Associations**. Processing the results of the questionnaire. (2nd part) was done in December. The questionnaire is a tool for measuring the progress and change in consumer's mind and behaviour after they have been present at the presentations or other project activities or hear about ecological diapering from others. Final results of the questionnaire were processed and published in report.
- **Storklja**: info-educational stand, within "Days of Health", a public health and environmental fare in Maribor, a lot of people came to our stand, they were interested in project and environmental problem that project is addressing, spread info about the Ecological and Health advantages of reusable cotton nappies and impact that disposable diapers have on Environment in general and indirectly on Danube basin through leaflets and discussion, we got a lot of useful comments, suggestions.
- **Storklja**: 8 presentations/demonstrations of project problem and within it presentation of the reusable diapers (use, environmental and Health advantages) in Ljubljana and Maribor for pregnant women, parents. Meetings were very successful, most of visitors decided to use cotton diapers in future.
- **Storklja**: Lobbying has been performed through suggestion for subvention for parents who buy ecological diapers that was placed to the local community of Maribor and Ljubljana.
- **Storklja**: Lobbying has been very successful in Community of Ljubljana, slovenian capital. We communicated our project very well and succeed to convince the local community that *they will save 1 tone of waste per child if they encourage (financially, not only morally) young parents to buy cloth diapers*. Therefore we succeed to get a check of 1250 Euros, which we have divided among 20 families, who decided to use cotton diapers exclusively for their child. After presenting a bill of purchase we have refunded them 62,5 Euros. We have promoted this check through our web page and have used all checks in few weeks. We will repeat this action as soon as possible. **This was first environmental action where politics was convinced of financially support people – final users and we are very proud of this result!**
- **Storklja** has performed a mass media campaign in December when press release to over 1000 emails of slovenian journalists was launched with announcement of issuing the film and information about the project in general, what resulted in many announcements/articles in newspaper and magazines, radios and Internet portals about the project, including presentation of Danube Regional Project, description of the environmental problem that project is addressing, activities through which we try to raise public awareness and change behaviour and attitude to indirectly induce pollution prevention, specially the DVD film aims to influence the public (targeting at parents, health-care professionals, care-takers, teachers, pupils and students), behavior immediately and in long-term way. **RODA** made arrangements with journalist from TV station „RTL Croatia“ to make TV show comparing cloth vs. Disposable diapers. Roda has done press conference and special event for mass media, donors, partners and colleagues in *January* - to inform them about project implementation and its contribution to environment and the Danube River Basin.
- **Roda** performed lobbying mostly through lots of appearance in media, through public activities (Roda's quarterly sale and occasional stands), via internet forum on their www pages and also through private contacts.
- The last filming activities, related to technical details of film postproduction, are going on.
- **Roda**: EPHA Environment Network in partnership with PIN for Health, Croatian Nurses Association and Green Action invited RODA to participate in their Capacity Building Workshop on Environment and Health, to build the capacity of Croatian environment and health NGOs, to share experience and identify concrete ways in which Croatian NGOs and community groups could join forces and work together in the framework of a European network.
- **Roda** celebrated The Day of the planet Earth by vivid activities in most of major cities in Croatia-Zagreb, Split, Pula, Osijek and Čakovec by info-educational stands about advantages of using cloth diapers (leaflet is attached) and we discussed with visitors about the Ecological and Health advantages of reusable cotton nappies and impact that disposable diapers have on environment and health.
- One of **Roda's** members was invited to present Roda's cloth diappers project in very popular live tv show „Good morning, Croatia!“, received lots of phone calls immediately afterwards, parents asking about modern cloth diapers and where to buy them.
- **Activities for filming**. In June all material for art film was recorded and in July all material for documentary part was recorded. In **documentary part** we succeed to include well-known and influential personalities - medical doctors, politicians, and experts from relevant scientific fields, like chemistry, pollution, social affairs, and also parents who have

TIME: 01/13/2007

Prepared by: Spelca Morojna, Anita Jovanov, Mojca Fürst

experience with cotton diapers. The practical part of showing how to use the cotton diapers was represented by dr. Spelca Morojna, the project leader and experienced breastfeeding consultant and pioneering cotton diapers promotor in Slovenia. We were very satisfied with activities and it is also seen from the film that people who are talking are chosen very wisely and represent their own statement with karisma and profound belief in ecological and other benefits of the cotton diapers. After the material was recorded, the activities for montaging the film started and unfortunately caused a lot of delay. The translation to Croatian language was done smoothly and within given time frame. The covers for DVD were printed in a low budget and ecological version, without plastics, only recycled paper. After all complications and with enormous effort from both project leaders, Spelca Morojna and Anita Jovanov, we have finally managed to publish the film in the January. We have definitely proved our excellent organization and co-operation since without this we would never manage to perform this project to the end with such sustaining and high quality results.

- **Promotion and distribution of the free DVD film** started in January in both countries and will continue in next months. Both was carried out through mass media (already in newspaper announcement in December) on local TV station, home web page, web pages of NGO's alike ours, web forums, health-care centers where pregnant women and young parents go (maternity schools and prenatal classes, gynaecologic and paediatric centers) and health-care schools where education begins.
- **Final process and overlook of the results and objectives** took place in December and January, to see the successfulness of the implementation of the project and its activities and to plan the follow up activities.

Achievements/Outcomes (with specific examples when possible):

- 6 Suggestions for financial subventions were placed in Ljubljana and Maribor, 1 positively answered and accompanied by the 1250 Eur check.
- Facilitate the flow of the information: Storklja's and Roda's Info-educational stand within "Days of Health" in
- www subpage of the project has been set
- 8 presentations of cotton diapers in Slovenia, 5 in Croatia
- almost 2000 (all together) fulfilled questionnaire in both countries, results of the questionnaire done
- cooperation between NGO's, partner organization and REC proved to be very good
- DVD film is done, presented to media and distribution started and will continuously run in next months and probably years.
- Mass media events, electronic press release to over 1000 journalists in Slovenia, press conference in Croatia

Products/Outputs Developed:

- www subpage of the project (January)
- the questionnaire (February), results in December
- subvention suggestion (March) and positive answer (August)
- leaflet (April)
- suggestion financial check (August)
- media articles (December, January and in following months)
- DVD film (January)

Follow Up:

- Since publishing of the film was late both project partners agree on continuing the distribution of the film in the next months or even years.
- The response of the final users to the film will be measured by questionnaire in next 6 months on the web pages of both project partners to estimate the influence of the film to the final users and to raising of their awareness about use of eco-cotton-diapers and environmentall friendly washing agents.

NGO Project Summary Report for Regional Projects

REC Project: # 21728 Grant Topic: International waters, agriculture

Donor: UNDP/GEF

Project Title: Best Agricultural Practice in My Farm

Lead NGO: *Black Sea NGO Network, Varna, Bulgaria*

NGO Contact information: 12 Sheinovo Str., Varna 9000 PO Box 91, Bulgaria, Tel. +359 52615856 Mobile +359 886 314 515 Email: reg_off@bseanetwork.org, http: www.bseanetwork.org

Project leader: Emma Gileva

Cooperative NGO Partners and Countries: *Prietenii Pamatului (Earth Friends), Galati, Romania*, Romania Mail address: str. Portului, bl.Siret 4, sc 7, ap 109, 800025 Galati, Romania Tel/Fax: + 40 236 462564 email: earthfriends@clicknet.ro Coordinator: Camelia Zamfir

Eco Counselling Center Cahul (Centrul de Consultanta Ecologica Cahul), Moldova

Mail address: str. Stefan cel Mare 21/28, Cahul, R. Moldova, Tel/Fax:+373 299 21478 email: arturneb@hotmail.com Coordinator: Artur Nebunu ;Assistant coordinator: Elana Pertu epertu@yahoo.com

Grant Awarded: **USD 34 978**; Project Duration: **12 months** (01/01/2006 – 31/12/2006)

Background of the problem:

The main problem common for the target rural areas in the three Lower Danube countries is the overenrichment of surface and ground waters with basic nutrients from agriculture, which leads to eutrophication and the related negative environmental impacts. Another general problem is low awareness among farmers, experts, NGOs and media of the problem's transboundary nature, poor cooperation on all levels and insufficient application of the ecosystem approach. More specifically, stakeholders, including local media, do not understand sufficiently the Best Agricultural Practice concept and the requirements of GAP, do not apply and promote GAP and are poorly motivated to apply ecosystem approach and develop organic farming, as well as multi-stakeholder and transboundary cooperation and exchange.

Goal and objectives of the project:

Goal(s)

- 150 – 200 farmers /stakeholders from the 6 vulnerable regions from Bg, Ro, Md effectively contribute to the reduction of the negative environmental impact from agriculture (nutrient & toxic pollution) in the Danube Basin surface and ground waters
- Local NGOs from selected regions in Bg, Ro, Md contribute to reinforce local, national and trans boundary cooperation and the ecosystem approach for Danube protection

Objectives: Participants will

TIME: 01/07/2007

Prepared by: Emma Gileva

- Understand the concept and requirements of the adopted/to be adopted GAP in Bg, Ro, Md at local level;
- Promote and apply GAP in their current agricultural practice in the very near future and mobilise and motivate 150 - 200 local stakeholders to bring about a change in the region
- Make local media interested in DRP, GAP, ecosystem approach/organic production and transboundary cooperation in target countries;
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and promote exchange and networking locally, nationally and regionally

Methodology and strategy:

The partners employed the following approaches within the DRP programme strategy: encouragement of stakeholder involvement – 265 Bg farmers, 35 Ro farmers and 57 Md farmers applying GAP; BAP applied on 70 000 ha of land in Bg, 1100 ha in Ro and 98 livestock in Bg and 150 in Ro; promotion of changes in consumer behavior – conversion to organic production on 94 ha in Bg (3-4 crops), 1000 (tentative) ha in Ro(vineyards); improved chemicals use reporting – 120 farmers in Bg, 10 in Md; support to policy work on national level – 6 trainings on GAP and the EU Nitrates Directive in the 3 countries; exchange of information between government experts and NGOs in the 3 countries; involvement of media in regular coverage of agro-environmental issues – 1 competition, 5 - 6 regular features on agro-environmental and water issues; application of regional approach and transboundary perspective – 15 Romanian and Moldovan farmers and experts visit 4 Bulgarian model farms; 24 Bulgarian and 3 Moldovan farmers and experts visit 1 demonstration manure storage site and 3 farms in Romania. The project employed tools such as: awareness raising, information dissemination and media involvement, preparation for the implementation of the WFD, training, networking and partnerships.

Thus the project has contributed basically to the indirect reduction of the loads of nutrients from agriculture by stimulating farmers to change some of their farming practices in the direction of GAP by observing the regulation and by adopting voluntarily the Code of BAP and good environmentally friendly practices, some of them saving money and resources. The project has also encouraged the exchange on ecosystem approach and organic production on national and regional level thus contributing to changes in the existing practices and pattern of production toward environmentally friendly solutions reducing the loads of nutrients and toxics.

Achievements/Outcomes (with specific examples when possible):

- Farmers/stakeholders better informed, motivated and mobilized to apply GAP – 3 info summaries, 3 summaries for media and experts, 221 farmers trained, 1500 brochures disseminated to about 6000 reading public.
- Local stakeholders and wider public involved in learning about/applying alternative methods of production and the ecosystem approach – 7 public outreach events with a set of information materials identifying visually the project (banners, posters, diplomas, T-shirts, notebooks, leaflets etc.), 2 cross border visits (45 visitors, 15 local experts involved, 7 farms and 1 manure storage facility visited), 3 media competitions with 20 journalists nominated, 3 networks created, 300 direct and about 6000 indirect beneficiaries

Products/Outputs Developed:

3 info expert summaries, 1 fact sheet on the Codes of GAP, 3 summaries for media (on GAP, BAP, DRP etc.); 6 sets of materials for trainings on GAP; 3 brochures on GAP (1500 c.); 3 posters -1500 c., 3 banners, 100 T-shirts, 100 personalized diaries, 500 leaflets, 500 leaflets with Charter.

Follow Up:

- Networking and extending the network of farmers applying BAP in Bg, Ro and Md.
- Dissemination of results on national level among NGOs and experts
- Involvement with ongoing projects and preparation of further project proposals