

4-5 February 2013, Vienna

Session V: Communicating environmental challenges and risks and promoting public participation in decision making **ENGLISH only**  
Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Chair of ENVSEC Initiative and Executive Director of the REC for Central and Eastern Europe

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## Environment and Security Initiative

Communicating environmental challenges and risks and promoting public participation in decision making

21TH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM



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## ENVSEC priority areas



**Environment and Security Priority Areas**

The map highlights several key regions: Eastern Europe (including Belarus, Ukraine, and parts of Russia and Poland), Southern Caucasus (including Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan), Central Asia (including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan), and the Balkans (including Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania). It also shows parts of the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and surrounding regions.

UN administered territory under UNSC 1244  
\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

THE DEMARICATIONS SHOWN ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY THE EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION ON THE PART OF THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ANY COUNTRY, TERRITORY, CITY OR AREA OR IMPLICITY OR EXPLICITATION OF ITS FRONTIERS AND BOUNDARIES.

Map produced by ZOI Environment Network, May 2011



## ENVSEC Partners

A unique combination of skills, experiences and networks

- **OSCE** – regional security expertise on early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation
- **UNEP** – assessments of the state of the environment and expertise on environmental policies, institutions and laws
- **UNDP** – expertise on linkages between environmental trends and human security as well as poverty reduction
- **UNECE** - environmental policy and international environmental law, including five regional environmental conventions
- **REC** – regional expertise and network of professionals of environmental fieldwork
- **NATO** – associated member providing technical and financial support to clean-up and remediation efforts



## ENVSEC Portfolio

December 2012

- **47 projects, including:**
  - 44 ongoing and 3 pipelines*
  - 37 core and 10 associated*
- **Overall budget: \$40.5 mln, including:**
  - \$38.58 mln (95%) ongoing and \$1.92 mln (5%) pipelines*
  - \$14.11 mln (35%) core and \$26.39 mln (65%) associated*



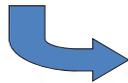
## ENVSEC process

### Confidence building and action

**Stage 1: Regional assessments**



**Stage 2: National and regional consultations**



**Stage 3: Regional work programmes**



**Stage 4: Project implementation and lessons learned**



## The appliance of science for reducing environment and security risks

- **Environment and security issues are complex and controversial**
- **Provisional scientific knowledge – Facts are often uncertain:** for example ‘climate change and its impacts on security’
- **Stakes are high and decisions urgent:** societal stability, energy security, food security, human health etc.
- **Importance of public participation: multi-stakeholder approach and « negotiated assessments »**

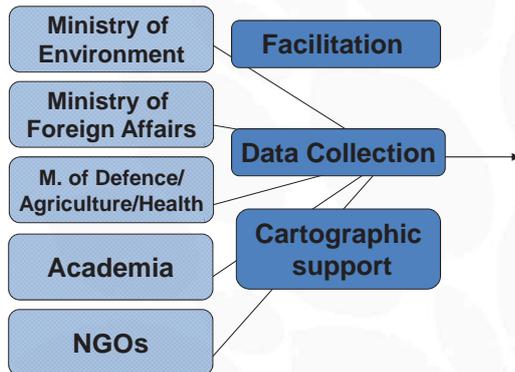


## Methodology

### National Consultations

#### Country X

#### Int. organizations



- Map environmental problems with a link to conflicts and disasters
- Map environmental opportunities for cooperation
- Nominate 'National Focal Points' to participate in the process

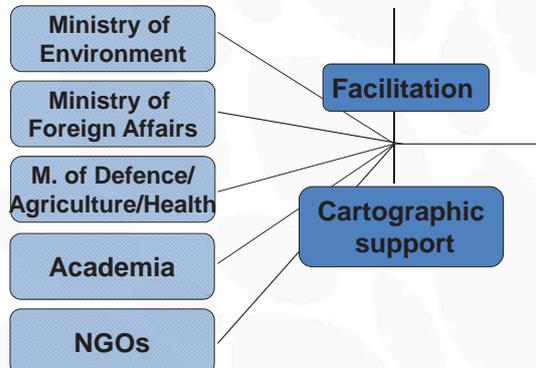


## Methodology

### Regional Consultations

#### All countries'

#### Int. organizations



- Agree on problems identified
- Set Action Areas
- Agree on priorities
- Produce an assessment report and a work programme to address "the prioritized risks"



## ENVSEC Focus areas

Spotting shared benefits and solutions

1. Transboundary natural resources
2. Hazardous substances and practices
3. Population pressure and climate change
4. Information and participation



## Four examples of ENVSEC projects

1. **Central Asia:** Ferghana valley, *UNDP*
2. **Southern Caucasus:** Southern Caucasus Cooperative River Monitoring, *NATO, OSCE*
3. **South-Eastern Europe:** Bilateral arrangements for transboundary management of water resources: the Timok River, *REC/UNECE*
4. **Eastern Europe:** Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drisviaty / Druksiai lake basin, *UNEP/REC*



## Key Examples – Building capacities across.....

- Multi-media environmental education curriculum kit – **Green Pack**
  - Secondary school teachers and their students
  - Focus on particular aspects of environmental protection and sustainable development
    - **40.000+ teachers - 4.000.000+ students - in 18 countries....**
- Cross-sectoral approach – **Sustainable Development Academy**
  - A comprehensive (~ 1 month!) educational programme on the “three pillars” of sustainable development initiated by the Italian Government
    - **SEE • CEE • Black Sea Region • Kazakhstan • Russia**



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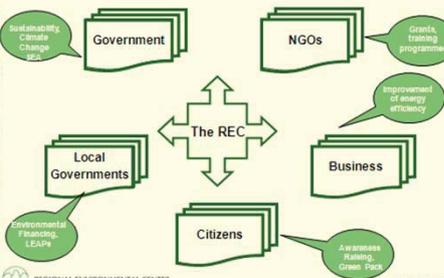
## Regional Environmental Center (REC)

- "... is an international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental problems (...)"
  - The REC is legally based on a **charter signed by 31 countries and the EC**
  - Multi-stakeholder international Board
  - **190 staff** (some 30 nationalities)
  - **Offices in 17+ countries**
  - 100% project based organization
    - over **200 running projects**
    - 10 – 12 million€ annual turnover
  - Operates in various regions:
    - EU Members of Central and Eastern Europe
    - EU Enlargement countries, candidates and potential candidates
    - Eastern Partnership Countries
    - EU27
    - Operation beyond the REC Country Office Network



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## Bridging – across borders



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## Chair objectives 2013

### Four priorities

- 1. Strengthening the security dimension of ENVSEC**  
*Particular emphasis given to the risk nexus between climate, water, energy and food*
- 2. Consolidating and widening the scope of ENVSEC**  
*Widening scope step by step to include countries neighboring the ENVSEC regions, as well as sharing its experience more effectively with other regions*
- 3. Creating a more sustainable and effective ENVSEC Initiative**  
*Continuity and innovation: ENVSEC traditional and new partners*
- 4. Sharing lessons learned and enhancing the visibility of the ENVSEC Initiative**  
*10th Anniversary of the ENVSEC Initiative in 2013*



For more information please visit:  
[www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org)



Thank you!

