

# The Main Challenges in Developing PRTRs and the Need for Capacity building and Technical Assistance

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PRTR MoP-1, April 21,2010



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

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# 20 in 2010

Twenty in Twenty Ten!

## Assisting Our Regions' Efforts

The Regional Environmental Center



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# Milestones – 1989...2010

- 1989
  - Budapest, July 12 – the historical speech of President Bush at the Marx University
- 1990
  - The **REC's Foundation Charter is signed** by Hungary, the EC, the US and the Netherlands on June 20.
- 1993
  - Japan Special Fund
- 1995
  - International status in Hungary
- 2000
  - **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program** for South Eastern Europe, brokered with REC assistance, is endorsed by the Stability Pact.
- 2001
  - Italian Trust Fund
- **2005**
  - Declaration of the Signatories to the Charter of the REC on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 2010
  - The REC today **and the story goes on...**

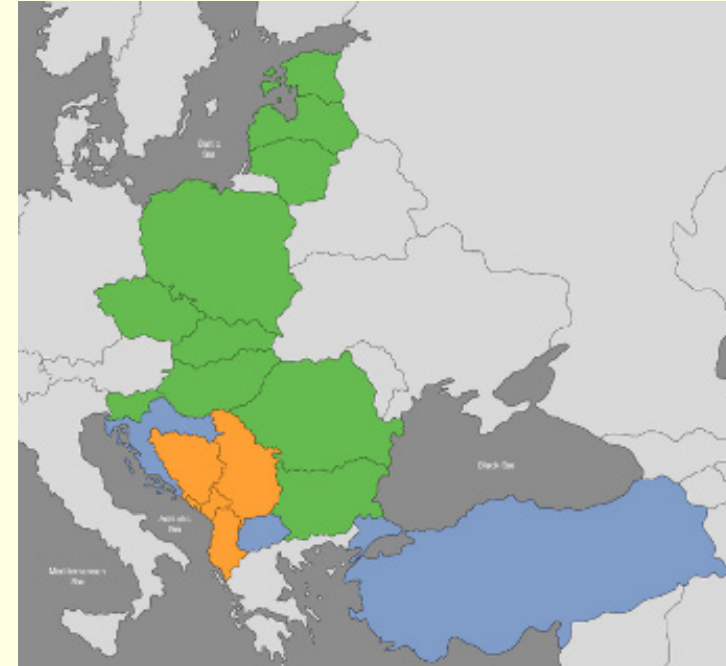


A Salute to President George Bush:  
A REC founding father

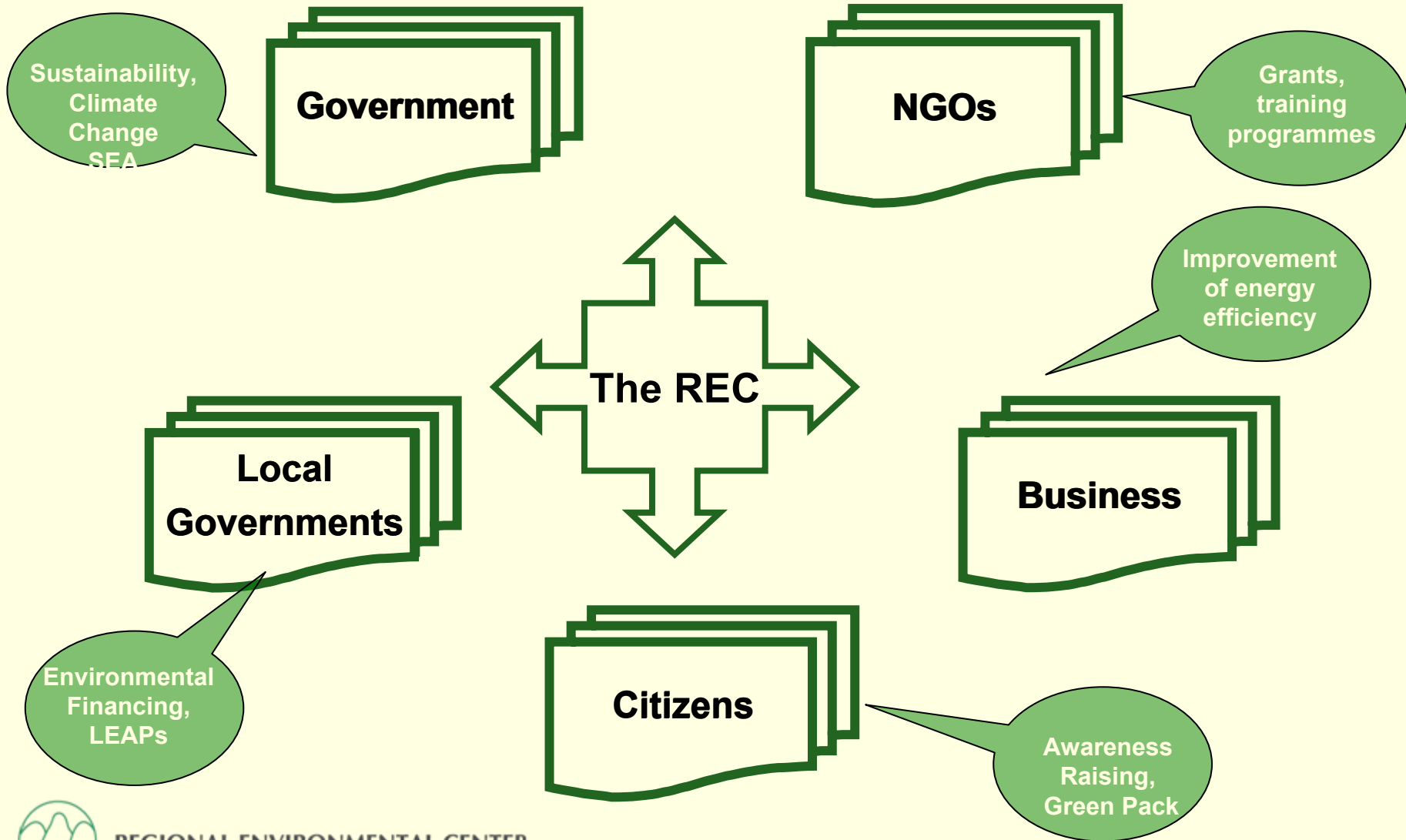


# The REC today

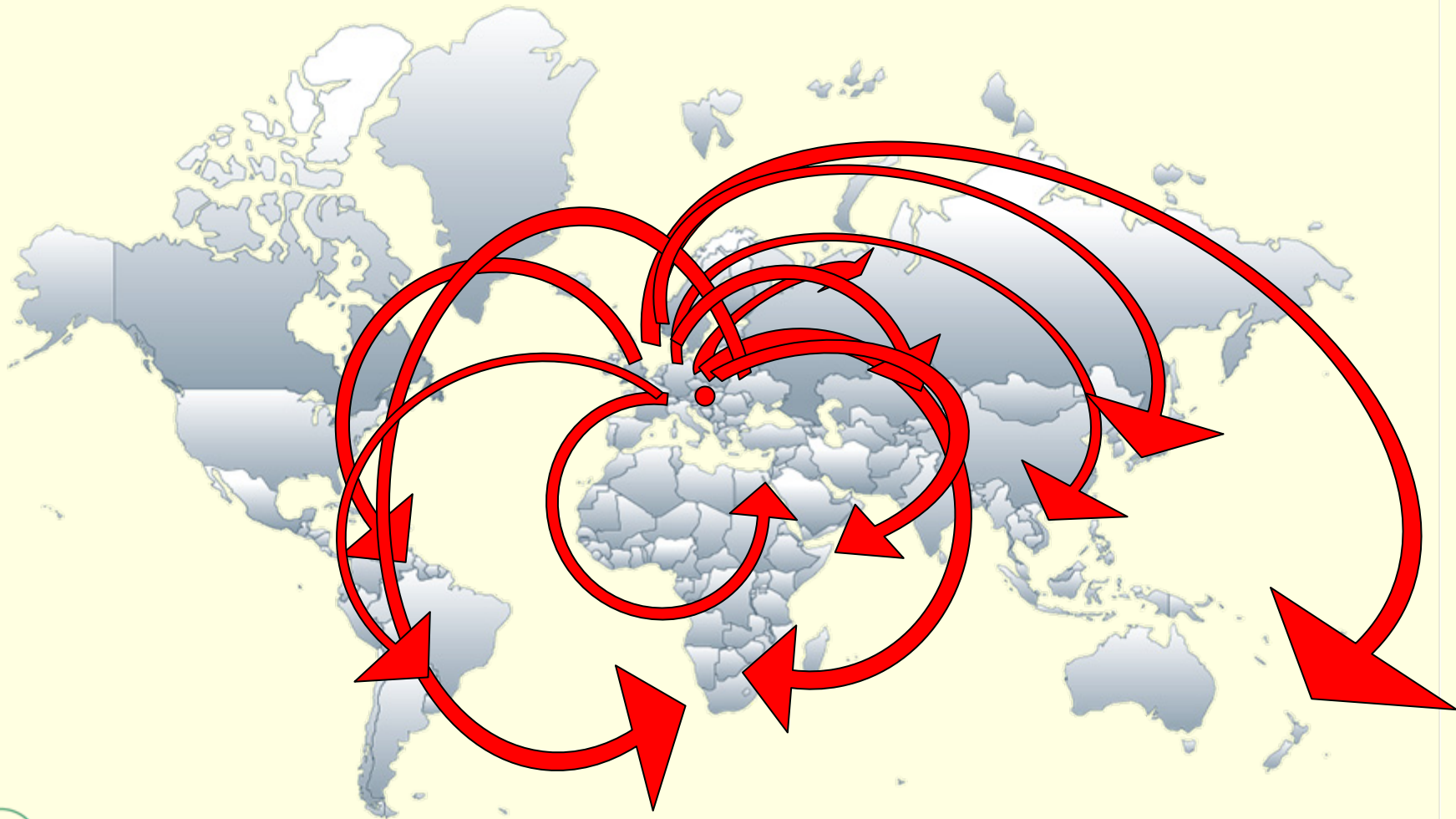
- “... is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems (...)”
  - The **REC** is legally based on a **charter signed by the governments of 29** countries and the EC
  - Multi-stakeholder International Board
  - **190 staff** (some 30 nationalities)
  - 100% project based organization (over **300 running projects**)
  - 10 – 12 million Euro annual turnover
  - **Offices in 17 countries**
  - **International status in 5 countries** (Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia)
  - Population served ~ 200 million
  - Operations beyond Central and Eastern Europe



# Bridging – Across Borders



# REC – Transfer of Lessons Learned



# Current trends and developments in Central and Eastern Europe

- PRTR becoming a reality in CEE and SEE
  - PRTR Protocol signed by most new EU MS and SEE countries
- New EU Member States build PRTR through EPER and E- PRTR
- SEE countries: similar path with some delay (IPPC, PRTR, E-PRTR)
- Ratification of the Protocol: EU and ECE processes can go hand in hand



# Parties and Signatories to the Aarhus Convention



•BLUE: SIGNATORIES

•GREEN: PARTIES

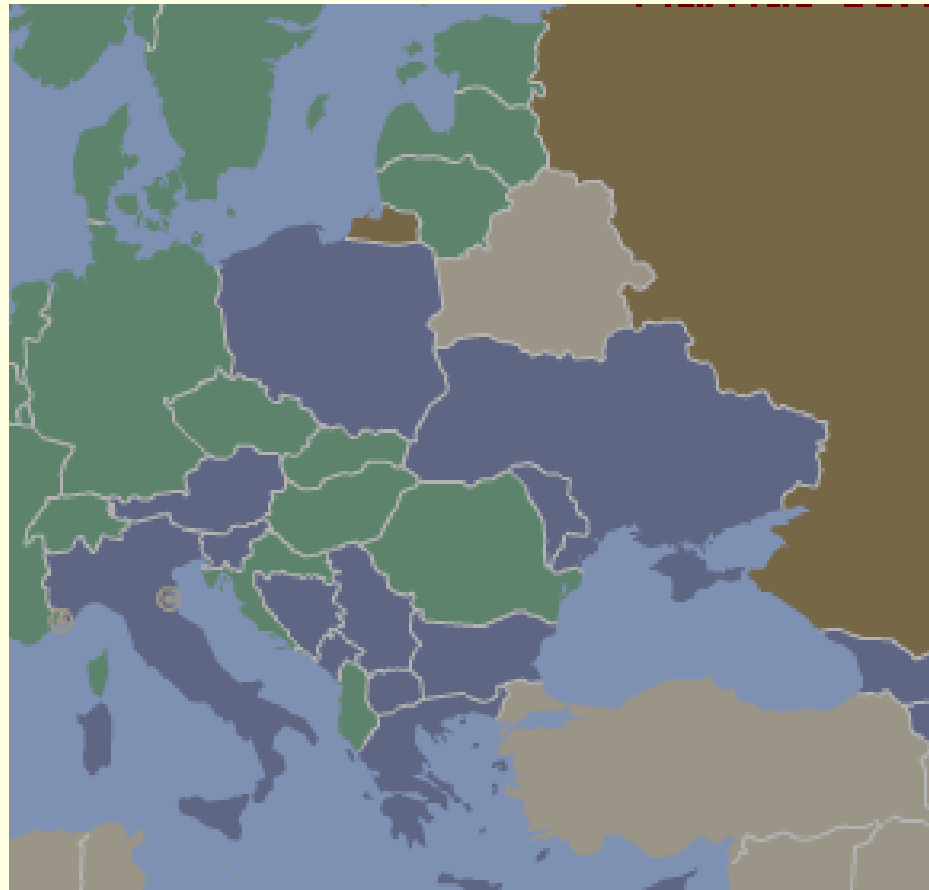
•Source: <http://http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.htm>



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[www.rec.org](http://www.rec.org)

# Parties and Signatories to the PRTR Protocol



•BLUE: SIGNATORIES

•GREEN: PARTIES

•Source: <http://unece.org/env/pp/ratification.htm>



# Main Challenges and Needs in Developing PRTRs in SEE countries

- Legislative burden of accession process
  - Priority setting: legal transposition and/or practical implementation in relatively short time
  - Legal framework is not complete, some regulations/bylaws missing (no regulation for self-monitoring)
  - Most countries SEE started implementation of IPPC - few already made good progress in PRTR development
- Creating institutional framework for integration of data collection and information flow
  - Overcome lack of coordination of data collection and gaps in information flow
  - Designate a single responsible agency and share responsibilities among national agencies
  - No clear roles in data management system, poor data quality
  - Quality control system is not established
  - Communication within and among authorities, with operators and public
  - Lack of capacity and expertise in institutions, insufficient knowledge at companies



# Capacity Building to Support PRTR Development: The REC Experience

- Supporting development of PRTR and preparation for ratification/implementation of the Protocol in SEE countries
  - (Albania, BiH, Montenegro, Serbia - NL funding, 2004-2006 )
    - Assessment report of gaps and needs
    - Multi-stakeholder dialogue on findings and recommendations
    - Study tours for officials to Netherlands and Czech Republic
    - Experience sharing nationally and in SEE regional workshop



# Capacity Building to Support PRTR Development: The REC Experience



- Capacity building for SEE ministry officials and environmental inspectors tasked to implement legislation and setting up PRTR in line with E-PRTR
  - All SEE countries and Turkey -ECENA-EC funding 2007-2009
    - Addressing practical operational issues
    - Share experience with and learn from
      - experience of EU and EU MS
      - different SEE countries – trainings and study tours (Hungary, UK)
- Planned activities:
  - Assistance in ratification preparations
  - Awareness raising workshops/trainings for authorities, industry and NGOs
  - Pilot project at facility combined with capacity building (SEE countries, funded by ENVSEC)



# Conclusions

- What has worked:
  - Projects following strategic approach
  - Cooperation with key actors and stakeholders
  - Assessment of legal, institutional practical gaps and needs and design agreed process
  - Assistance with practical technical issues to support setting up operational registers
  - Capacity building programme of officials, operators, NGOs including different methods
    - Training/awareness raising, workshops, study tours, pilot projects
    - Sharing experience within SEE, with EU and other European countries



# Further information

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REC 20 YEARS



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