

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
Actions by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

**Organization: The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC),
Ady Endre ut 9-11, 2000 Szentendre, Hungary**

Title:

Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms

Focus areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns; Promote green and fair trade; Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital.

Description of the action: The main objective of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms (PLP) is to facilitate ongoing EU-wide policy learning and capitalisation of practices among stakeholders of regional relevance in order to strengthen regional policies, and in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation. A particular emphasis is placed on providing regional policy makers with the tools and information for them to improve the performance of regional development policies and programmes. By offering relevant advice and support services the Platforms help policy makers find solutions to improve their own policies and enhance their impact and their contribution to EU strategic priorities notably through interregional cooperation projects.

This is done for the Priority Axes, Investment Priorities and specific objectives of Interreg Europe:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

The REC is coordinating the platform on protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency. The project is implemented for the INTERREG Europe's Joint Secretariat.

Time frame/milestones, for the action, as appropriate: 2016–2020

Type of action: Information and policy learning action

Economic sectors: Economy-wide (regions)

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: INTERREG Europe Programme

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: EU-wide policy learning and capitalization of practices facilitated among stakeholders of regional relevance.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: The activities will contribute to SDG 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) recommendations, as appropriate:
N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: The project aims to cover 70% of EU regions eligible in the Programme by 2023

Partners: INNO TSD; Ecorys; META; Trinomics; AER, LSIC; EMG Group Plc; SIA Sirius

Contact point:

Ms. Venelina Varbova

Topic Area Leader (Environmental Financing)

REC

Email: VVarbova@rec.org

Telephone: +36 26 504 000

Note: The commitments submitted by the REC are based on the REC Strategy 2016-2020 and reflect ongoing activities of the REC. The implementation of further actions is contingent upon mobilised resources by the REC and continued support by resource partners of the REC.