



## ENV.net

### Development of the ENV.net in West Balkan and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration

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#### Project objective:

Greater commitment and capacity of the ENV.net to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes in the environment sector through analysis, monitoring and advocacy

#### Project activities:

- Awareness & information activities on the EU environment *acquis* and on the EU environment policies; collection of information on policies and initiatives taken at national and regional levels to approximate to EU *acquis*; identification of common monitoring modalities; identification of joint strategies for action
- Organisation of regular consultation with key stakeholders; production and distribution of information material; training on advocacy, communication for ENV.net partners, promotion of social events, production of shared papers and dissemination to key actors in target countries and the EU Institutions
- Needs assessment on training needs, administrative capacities, governance and organisational development analysis of the CSOs; delivery of training / capacity building activities to ENV.net partners; information and training sessions for national stakeholders

#### Project partners:



#### Results expected

1. The ENV.net is able to analyse and monitor the progress in the approach to the environment *acquis* in the partner countries and the gaps in the policies at national level are identified for joint strategies for action
2. Public environmental awareness ensured and state-civil society dialogue improved on environmental issues at national and regional level
3. ENV.net is recognised as a leading network in the promotion of effective transparency and accountability of the CSOs in the region

The project builds on the experience of a EU-funded project, namely the Environment Forum (<http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php>), implemented in the period 2009-2012, aiming at developing capacities of environmental NGOs to establish a constructive dialogue with national authorities. The present project strategy has been designed to achieve a greater commitment and capacity of a group of CSOs coming from Environment Forum experience and which have agreed on the creation of a new network, the ENV.net, to support the civil activism, give citizens a voice and influence the public reform processes in the approximation to the environment *acquis*. With the view to further enhance their capacities to work with CSOs and to share experience with other European countries, EEB has accepted to participate and to share its experience.



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punto.sud

**Project leader**

## **Fondazione punto.sud**

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### **Description of the organisation**

punto.sud is a non-profit Foundation based in Milan, Italy. Its main objective is to act as a bridge between international agencies, NSAs, public administration, and the private sectors. Thanks to the interaction with several actors (European NGOs, Red Cross societies, the FAO, Bilateral donors, local authorities, universities) and a long lasting co-operation with the European Commission, punto.sud working group has been able to assess in-depth the major weak points of CSOs. The added value of punto.sud is represented by its extensive experience, acquired over the last ten years, on promoting accountability in the CSOs sector through the strengthening of organisations capacity to deal with planning, administration and project management according to the most recognised international standards. On this regard, punto.sud has developed several capacity building methods: e.g. trainings world-wide, helpdesk support, development of toolkits, websites and distance learning courses. The Foundation promotes itself as a (neutral) facilitator of the networking processes with project expertise and specialized professionalism characterized by: in-depth knowledge of the best international standard in accountability, EC legal environment and development policies; strong competence in coordinating project partnerships; delivering dedicated helpdesk support tailored to the needs of CSOs; well-proven capacity to develop “CSOs tailored” trainings and tools.

punto.sud has now 13 permanent staff.

### **History**

punto.sud was formed in Milan, Italy, in 1999 by a group of professional consultants with broad experience in project preparation, management and evaluation as well as in training of humanitarian aid workers.

During its 13 years of activity punto.sud has worked on research programmes (mainly socio-economic studies), training, technical assistance and monitoring & evaluation both in the field of humanitarian assistance and co-operation to development, with different partners both private and public institutions/organisations in more than 50 developing countries.

### **Similar action**

punto.sud was a partner of the the EU-funded project “Environmental Forum” (see <http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php>), in charge of developing and managing the project website and the newsletter and to coordinate the helpdesk service.

In October 2008, punto.sud has signed a 4-year framework service contract with the DG ECHO as leading agency to develop different supportive services to Commission staff, NGOs and international organizations on project management (see <http://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/>).

From January 2009 to March 2011, punto.sud led a project targeting EU12 CSOs with 4 partners from EU12. The project, co-financed by DG EuropeAid, intended to foster the mobilization and co-operation of CSOs through the creation and implementation of different in-country platforms in Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. An associated Turkey NGO was also part of the consortium to expand the impact of the action in third countries. The project developed a website (<http://www.puntosud.org/helpdesk-europeaid/doku.php>), a helpdesk services and some training sessions on “how to co-operate” with the Commission.

punto.sud has also promoted the establishment of the “Forum for the support of an effective and accountable cooperation in development” (composed by punto.sud as network coordinator and a consolidated group of CSOs platforms from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and a Serbian organisation) and has developed some minor initiative for the benefit of EU12 and Balkans countries.



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**Partner**

## **Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development**

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### **Description of the organisation**

Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development is a non-profit organization that has contributed to sustainable development by enabling good urban and regional governance, tackling key environmental issues, developing civil society, impacting policies, and promoting community participation since 1995.

Co-PLAN worked in environmental projects focusing in Municipal Waste Management in collaborations with the local government units and developed different surveys regarding waste characterizations in different cities, contributed in designing local waste management plans and assisting and conducted training sessions with the local government units. It also collaborated in energy efficiency projects (energetic calculations, training materials, etc) and in strategic environmental assessment of regulatory plans. Also, Co-PLAN has increasingly sought to influence policy-making within Albania. To this end, Co-PLAN has undertaken policy research aimed at generating policy recommendations.

### **Similar actions**

Co-PLAN has experience in delivering results through partnership thanks to the implementation of different projects, such as the following:

- Reducing energy use and hence CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through a partnership between civil society and local government, to educate the population and enhance the thermal efficiency of domestic buildings
- Empowering Environmental Local Governance Performance using Municipal Waste Management in Fier as a pilot
- LOGIN Albania with the main goal to strength the capabilities of organizations that support the reform of public administration at the local level, by facilitating the exchange of timely and useful information at the municipal, regional and national level, while also bringing in knowledge acquired in CEE.
- Sustainable Mobility in Tirana (MO.S.T) implemented jointly by three Albanian partners, Co-PLAN, Municipality of Tirana and Polytechnic University of Tirana, as well as six Italian partners from Puglia Region.
- Making Policies Work – Program for Applied Public Policy Research



AMBASADORI ODRŽIVOG  
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**Partner**

## **Environment Ambassadors for Sustainable Development**

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### **Description of the organisation**

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD) is an association of experts, scientists and professionals in environmental/sustainable development fields. Founders and core team CVs could be the evidence of respectable technical expertise this organisation is bringing to network (university professors, young and senior scientists and researches, consultants). EASD provide knowledge and experience to national efforts to improve the environment for civic activism and state-civil society (policy) dialogue.

EASD received accreditation and participated to World Summit of Sustainable Development (Rio+20).



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EASD is UNEP National NGO Focal Point for Chemicals (SCAIM), as well National Coordinator for Federation of Environmental Education activities in Serbia, (successfully) managing relevant coordination/partnership role with other CSOs and other stakeholders.

### Similar actions

EASD president was the international Thematic/Technical expert in Environment Forum project (see [http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php/aboutus/start#technical\\_expertandjelka\\_mihajlov](http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php/aboutus/start#technical_expertandjelka_mihajlov)), in charge of preparing basic background papers (in different thematic issues: e.g. waste management, IPPC, biodiversity, climate change, energy, transport; [http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php/thematic\\_papers/start](http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php/thematic_papers/start)) to tackle important topics in the accession process and primarily serve for preparation and stimulation of discussion at annual meetings and for participating NGOs dialogue with DG Environment.

Other previous experiences includes UNESCO Ecological Footprint: analysis and training project (for different stakeholder groups, including Eco-Camp on Mountain Golija), organization of regional Conference "Environment to Europe" (about 200 participants), advisory and monitoring role in Regional Environmental Cohesion project, study/research and training on environment and rural development, development of background paper for green economy policy paper in country. Relevant reference includes work on gap analysis and strategic plan for Aarhus Convention implementation.

Recently EASD participated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Western Balkan Civil Society Forum.



Partner

### European Environmental Bureau

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### Description of the organisation

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is a federation of over 140 environmental citizens' organisations based in most EU Member States, most candidate and potential candidate countries as well as in a few neighbouring countries. These organisations range from local and national, to European and international.

EEB's aim is to protect and improve the environment by influencing EU policy, promoting sustainable development objectives and ensuring that Europe's citizens can play a part in achieving these goals. EEB stands for environmental justice and participatory democracy. The office in Brussels was established in 1974 to provide a focal point for its members to monitor and respond to the EU's emerging environmental policy.

EEB focuses on influencing EU policy making and implementation and assessment of its agreed policies. It aims to be effective by combining knowledge with representativeness, active involvement of its members and coalition building. Its policy officers are in constant dialogue with the European institutions. EEB supplies quality information to the public, its members and the European institutions through articles, reports and papers.

### Similar actions

EEB has a long time experience with working with the countries in Western Balkans both through facilitating the dialogue between the European Commission and environmental NGOs in the regions (New NGO Forum, see [www.newngoforum.org](http://www.newngoforum.org)) as well as specific activities in Croatia, FYRo Macedonia and Montenegro.



Partner

### Advocacy Training and Resource Center

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### Description of the organisation



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Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) is a Kosovar non-for-profit organization that works in increasing citizen and civil society participation in decision-making, as a prerequisite for a developed democratic society and regional stability.

ATRC was established in October 2001 as a key implementing partner for the USAID/EWMI Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP) and registered in August 2003. The initial goal of ATRC was to create a vibrant advocacy training and resource center. Since then it has worked to strengthen the autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the NGOs sector, to support advocacy initiatives or projects of the civil society organizations, to provide basic and advanced trainings and consultancies to NGOs staff and municipality officials in key areas of organizational development, management, strategic planning, advocacy and fund raising; to provide electronic information resources via its updated website, to facilitate the dialogue between Kosovar NGOs and international and Kosovar governmental structures.

Through its enhanced role as a full-service NGO training, resource and information center, ATRC is working to strengthen the autonomy, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the NGO sector as a major catalyst in the development of a lively civil society and responsive democratic governance.

ATRC is governed by a 5 member Board of Directors and managed by its Executive Director. Currently ATRC has a full-time staff of 13 and 2 part time.

### **Similar actions**

ATRC has established an extensive Information Program, consisting of frequent public discussions; a monthly e-newsletter, "The Advocate"; advocacy publications; and a diverse library, with over 600 titles. As a part of its Capacity Building Program during Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP), ATRC has trained over 700 NGO representatives with its 40 available trainers.

Since, 2005, ATRC has its own trainers and consultants who trained over 500 NGO representatives in key areas of NGO organizational development, management, advocacy and fund raising.



**Partner**

### **The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA)**

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### **Description of the organisation**

The TEMA Foundation was founded in 1992 with the mission to create effective and conscious public opinion on environmental problems, specifically soil erosion, deforestation, desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss. TEMA has the following objectives: increase awareness of environmental problems, engage in capacity building for their solution; promote protection of natural habitats and ecosystem conservation of water resources and vegetative cover of the soil, sustainable use of agricultural lands and rangelands; support establishment of national policies friendly to the protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of lands and rational management of water resources; develop models for action to combat soil erosion in impoverished rural areas of Turkey and inspire the implementation of similar models in other parts of the country; establish the necessary organization and legislation with the support of volunteers (300 voluntary representatives and more than 450.0000 supporters around Turkey) in order to achieve the goal of stopping soil erosion.

To fulfill its mission, TEMA operates at local, national and international level. It implements educational activities, organizes awareness raising events and campaigns for community mobilization and empowerment. It intervenes on government policies for proper environmental protection and conducts legal activities, both by legislation drafting



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and through its lawsuits. While actively influencing and accelerating the processes at local and national level, through its strong international links, TEMA follows the international agenda and links the global perspective to local and national one. With the support of its scientific committee, TEMA prepares draft legislation, impact assessments and position papers on Turkey's environmental agenda.

### **Similar action**

Internationally, TEMA is an Executive Board member of the European Environmental Bureau and actively follows and lobbies for the environmental acquis.

TEMA is also a member of the DRYNET, a network of 15 CSOs that conduct activities in 17 countries with the aim to strengthen civil society networks by giving them the right knowledge and visibility to influence dryland development.

TEMA has implemented EU funded projects, the biggest of which was the 'Kaçkar Mountains Sustainable Forest Use and Conservation Project' with 2.098.201 € budget and lasted between 15 January 2007- 15 September 2011 (for further information please visit project website <http://www.kackarlarsenin.org/EN/>).



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