

Green Climate Fund Structured Dialogue with Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

Regional and transboundary cooperation to support low carbon and climate resilient development in EECA

11 September 2018

Dr. Dejan Komatina
Acting Executive Director



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



Towards 2030

About us

- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an int'l organization with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues
- The REC works in the following areas:
 - Civil Society Empowerment and Stakeholder Engagement
 - **Climate Change and Clean Energy Solutions**
 - **Education for Sustainable Development**
 - Environment and Health
 - Environmental Law, Policy and Instruments
 - Natural Resources
 - **Smart Cities and Sustainable Mobility**
 - **Water Resources Management**



Contents

- Common climate change challenges across the EECA region
- REC projects and initiatives supporting the transition to low-carbon and climate resilient development
- Future outlook and capacity building needs



Common CC challenges

- The EECA region faces multiple challenges and climate change issues are perceived as **lower priority** by political leaders and citizens as compared with social and economic development topics
- As a result, very **limited financial and human resources** are allocated for climate policy making, e.g. usually a handful of public servants deal with all climate change issues in environmental ministries

<https://www.pexels.com>



Common CC challenges

- Climate issues are usually dealt with by environmental authorities having **limited leverage** within the governments. Most of public funds are controlled by other ministries e.g. finance, transport, energy, economy, having **limited knowledge** of low carbon development needs and approaches
- Public and private investments go into transport, energy, social or business infrastructure, often by **ignoring** climate change **mitigation and adaptation** challenges and **opportunities**



<https://www.pexels.com>



Common CC challenges

- Public sector salaries are rather low, so good climate policy experts leave for private sector jobs or emigrate. **Professional development** and sustainable **capacity building** are challenging
- The private sector focuses on **short term gains** and generally ignores long term challenges. There is limited political will to impose environmental constraints on businesses due to the competitiveness and employment concerns. This limits the demand for environmental specialists in private sector



<https://www.pexels.com>



Common CC challenges

- The local financial sectors are not mature enough to provide **affordable funding** for long term investments needed for climate mitigation and adaptation actions
- Local authorities and SMEs have limited access to affordable credits and often **lack knowledge and skills** for preparing **bankable projects** acceptable by international lenders
- Numerous **good projects**, e.g. in energy efficiency, are often of **small size**, so big lenders might not be interested in them



<https://www.pexels.com>



Common CC challenges

- The climate change challenges are global and they require **effective international cooperation**. Coordinated and regional solutions, e.g. backup for renewable energy generators, efficient use of water resources, are often more cost effective
- There might be **trade-offs** between national priorities (e.g. national industrial development, local jobs, energy security) and international climate and sustainable development objectives



<https://www.pexels.com>



REC projects addressing the challenges

- **Challenges:** limited financial and human resources, cooperation and development trade-offs
- **Project:** *Support for Low Emission Development in South East Europe (SLED)*, <http://sled.rec.org/index.html>
- **Key deliverables and outcomes:**
 - Low carbon transformation pathways in the electricity and building sectors of Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - Regional cooperation opportunities in the electricity sector
 - Local capacity building
 - Input to the Paris Agreement processes



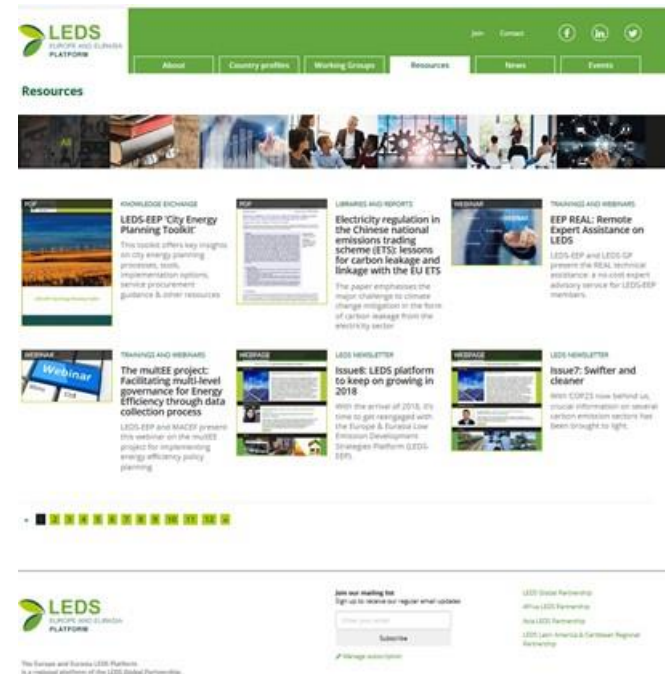
REC projects addressing the challenges

- **Challenges:** small municipalities, limited financial and human resources, small projects, limited skills in preparing bankable projects, professional development, cooperation
- **Project:** *Local Initiatives for a Sustainable Ukraine (LINK)*, <http://link-ukraine.rec.org/>
- **Key deliverables and outcomes:**
 - Climate education and guidelines for improving sustainability and security of municipal energy sectors
 - Workshops on city energy planning approaches and methods
 - Pilot projects on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the public sector
 - Support for development of project pipelines
 - Cooperation of municipalities and NGOs



REC projects addressing the challenges

- **Challenges:** professional development, limited financial and human resources, international cooperation
- **Project:** *Low-Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) platform for Europe and Eurasia*, <http://www.leds-eep.org/index.php>
- **Key deliverables and outcomes:**
 - Building a network of low emission development practitioners
 - LEDS knowledge sharing portal
 - Peer to peer learning, webinars and workshops
 - Resource library and tailored toolkits
 - Higher visibility of climate policy makers and experts in the region
 - International cooperation



Future outlook

- Climate change issues are likely to remain of **lower priority**. Though for some countries adaptation to climate change might become urgent
- Local public **financial** resources are likely to remain **limited**
- Local **financial markets** are developing, but **not fast enough** to finance the required scale of investments
- The **EU accession** processes provide a strong stimulus for countries seeking the EU membership
- Climate progress will remain dependent on **external financial aid**

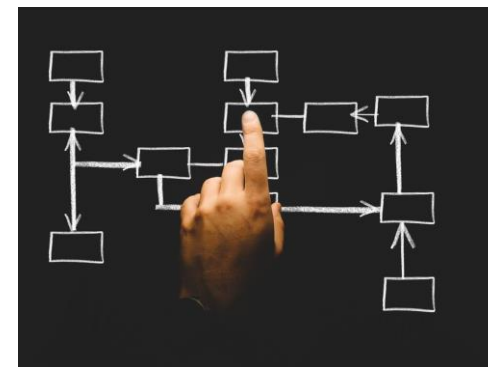


<https://www.pexels.com>




Capacity building needs

- Development of long term mitigation and adaptation **strategies**
- Selection of most **effective** and **cost-efficient policies** and measures
- Identifying **priority investments**
- Building **local capacity to develop** bankable projects and aggregate them
- Building **capacity to monitor** the performance of policies and measures and assess their impact
- **Sharing** of good practices and lessons, i.e. learning by doing and from peers



<https://www.pexels.com>





Thank
You

E-mail: DKomatina@rec.org