



Regions for a greener Europe

Bavarian Action Plan



Preface

This is the Bavarian Action Plan (BAP)¹. BAP is the result of the conference which took place May 16, 2014 in Bavaria. The new format – a one day conference, emphasis on political discussion – as already proven in Drenthe 2012, led to the conclusion of nine political alliances. Those alliances are the base of actual political cooperation in ENCORE for the next two years. The alliances are related to existing and urgent environmental issues. The first time in the history of ENCORE, the demands of the youth became an integral part of ENCORE. Therefore, Bavaria carried out a youth conference ('YouthCORE') in the week before ENCORE 2014. The results of YouthCORE served as an important working input for the Ministers workshops at ENCORE 2014 and were picked up in the alliances agreed. A third line of action was intensifying contacts with other networks. Therefore, a common declaration on climate change was signed by the Free State of Bavaria together with ENCORE, the Climate Group, the International Lake Constance Conference and nrg4sd. Furthermore, the revised version of the Valencia Charter was adopted by the conference. The Charter, first adopted in Valencia in 1995, and amended in Åre in 2006, sets out the long term strategic vision for the work of ENCORE. The Charter contains the objectives, the instruments and the priority actions of regional environmental policy in Europe. The second revision additionally highlights the importance of involving the youth into the work of ENCORE.

¹ The structure is more or less the same as the Aragon Action Plan, the Olsztyn Action Plan and the Drenthe Action Plan.

General results of ENCORE 2012 – 2014

I. ENCORE 2012 Drenthe

- 1) At the 10th Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE 2012) held in Assen, Drenthe (The Netherlands), on September 21, 2012, the participating Regions confirmed their commitment to improve the environment and to promote sustainable development in Europe and climate change mitigation.
- 2) The Ministers expressed the strong desire to engage in a continuous political dialogue and to strengthen international political cooperation among the Regions of Europe.
- 3) The Ministers agreed on 7 political alliances and 3 initiatives.
- 4) The conference invited the European Regions that have not signed the ENCORE Valencia Charter yet to do so by depositing their formal accession with the ENCORE Secretariat (www.encoreweb.org).
- 5) The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the contacts between ENCORE, the EU institutions and the European headquarters of other international organisations working in the field of environment and sustainable development.
- 6) In Drenthe, Bavaria was appointed as new co-president of ENCORE. Warmia-Mazury volunteered to perform the tasks of Permanent Secretariat

II. YouthCORE 2014 in Bavaria

- 7) At the first YouthCORE conference, the young people were faced with the same working documents like the regional Ministers. The other way round, the political demands developed by YouthCORE became working input of the Ministers workshops.
- 8) The Ministers expressed their will to consider the demands of the young people and to feedback to them.
- 9) Involving the youth into ENCORE by preceding a YouthCORE was accepted as well as a format of ENCORE 2016.
- 10) Involving the youth actively into ENCORE was considered in the revised version of the Valencia Charter.

III. ENCORE 2014 Bavaria

- 11) The 11th ENCORE conference in Bavaria turned the focus of the conference again to political discussion and the forming of political alliances between regions to tackle actual environmental problems. This format has already proven successfully in Drenthe 2012.
- 12) In Bavaria, Carinthia was appointed as new co-president of ENCORE. ENCORE 2016 will take place at September 23, 2016.
- 13) Drenthe volunteered to perform the tasks of Permanent Secretariat.
- 14) The conference agreed on nine political alliances (see paragraph 24). The continuation of the alliances, further specification of the content and delivering results is a central part of the working programme 2014 – 2016.
- 15) A declaration on Climate Protection was signed by the Free State of Bavaria, ENCORE, the Climate Group, International Lake Constance Conference and nrg4sd. It was agreed:
 - a) To act as pioneers of the necessary ‘Clean Revolution’ in the process of bringing together economy and ecology, in order to make the form of management more environmentally compatible and more resource-efficient in future. Sustainable development – still the key challenge of our age – can only succeed, when climate protection and competitiveness no longer contradict each other.

- b)** To present our partners with the many impressive examples already available from the regions to show what a forward-looking economy approach with reduced CO₂ emissions could look like.
- c)** To increasingly view energy and resource efficiency as a fundamental issue of future-oriented management. Environmental and efficient technologies are the key to sustainable growth along the entire industrial added-value chain.
- d)** To shape the political and production-related framework conditions for robust development of green jobs.
- e)** Based on the EU Buildings Directive to promote energy conservation in the buildings sector and to fully exploit the enormous, commercially utilisable potential for CO₂ reduction and in the process to encourage green jobs in the construction sector on a long-term and reliable basis.
- f)** In doing so, to prevent the construction of energetically inefficient buildings causing a major CO₂ lock-in effect over many decades and to develop appropriate framework conditions and launch funding models for the implementation of ambitious energy standards in the buildings sector.
- g)** To take comprehensive measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, in particular to support a marked reduction of

fossil fuels in combustion engines by increasing efficiency with appropriate framework conditions.

- h)** To adjust urban planning and land use strategies, in order to achieve a structural decrease in demand for road transport for both passengers and goods.
- i)** To encourage transport solutions with low emissions and support alternative approaches to mobility, such as local public transport, bicycle, multimodality or car-sharing, in particular on regional and municipal level.
- j)** To set the course for appropriate political steps for the consistent development of electromobility as an alternative to combustion engines, in order to keep the creation of value in the regions.
- k)** To establish innovative partnerships with industry, science and society, with a view to jointly advancing the Clean Revolution.
- l)** To recognise the significance of eco-sufficiency as a further important pillar alongside efficiency for a successful climate and sustainability policy.

ENCORE objectives and core structure

- 16)** The ENCORE Valencia Charter as revised and adopted at ENCORE 2014 describes the driving motivation underpinning the work of ENCORE:

“We believe the solution to global environmental problems can only be achieved by coordinated actions at all levels of government. In accordance with the principle ‘think global, act local’, regional governments and regional-level solutions have much to contribute. We recognise the importance of regional differences and the opportunity to test new ideas and policies at regional level. We, therefore, focus on an active cooperation of the regions of Europe.”

- 17)** Additionally the revised Charter highlights the importance of involving the youth:

“We are aware of our responsibility towards future generations. We will therefore also actively solicit the perspectives of young people to identify and refine core issues and solutions.”

- 18)** The Permanent Secretariat will be the depository of the revised ENCORE Valencia Charter. The list of regions that have signed the Charter is published at the website and kept up to date. The Permanent Secretariat will contact the other regions and invite them to sign the Charter.
- 19)** ENCORE activities are organised by individual European Regions or by regions jointly in alliances or otherwise under the supervision of the ENCORE Steering Group and the Steering Committee supported by the Permanent Secretariat.

ENCORE activities in general

- 20)** ENCORE engages in the following core activities:

a) Conferences

- i.** The driving force of ENCORE is the biannual conference for the regional Ministers and political leaders.
- ii.** The specific themes of each conference but also the conference arrangements and other activities are determined by the participating regions close cooperation with the presidency region and the ENCORE Steering Group.
- iii.** The involvement of the demands of further generations into ENCORE is of great importance.

b) YouthCORE

- i.** The demands of the youth can be developed at a youth conference preceding the particular ENCORE conference.
- ii.** YouthCORE and ENCORE will be linked in order to make sure that the demands of the youth become an integral part of the ministers conference and that the results of the Ministers conference will be fed back to the young people again. Objective is a mutual exchange between political leaders and interested young people.

c) Alliances

To carry out activities in the period between the conferences, the leaders of alliances will undertake actions and organize events to which politicians and administrative staff from European regions and other relevant stakeholders will be invited. Regions may also commission projects, activities and presentations under the ENCORE umbrella.

ENCORE Work Programme 2014 – 2016

d) Meetings of politicians

In the period between ENCORE Conferences, regional Ministers and political leaders can meet to discuss current political events but also to reinforce politically ENCORE and to assist the Co-Presidents in their guidance.

e) Regular meetings with the EU Commissioners

Representatives of ENCORE meet regularly with specific members of the European Commission to discuss current political issues as well as the preparation of the next Conference.

f) Cooperation with other European networks

ENCORE seeks to collaborate with other European networks that have an interest in environmental and sustainable development issues.

g) Website

- i.** The ENCORE website is the central tool for communicating these activities and for encouraging co-operation between the different partners and the exchange of experiences. The ENCORE Secretariat keeps the website up to date.
- ii.** The ENCORE website is linked to the particular websites of the next ENCORE conference and the next Youth CORE.

21) Resulting from the Conference 2014, the following types of activities will be undertaken in the period from May 2014 – September 2016

a) Contacts with other networks, European institutions and the European headquarters of other international organisations like the UN.

- i.** Contact with The Climate Group, nrg4sd and International Lake Constance Conference in terms of climate change.
- ii.** Contacts with UNFCCC will be revitalised when the COP's have made considerable progress.
- iii.** Contacts will be established with ECNC and UNEP to see if more active regions can be linked to the activities of ECNC and UNEP.
- iv.** Continuing seeking dialogue and co-operation with the EU institutions in the preparation of policies, plans and indicators in the field of environment and sustainable development. The Steering Group will pursue these matters with the relevant European institutions. There are a number of other bodies with an EU-wide mandate which includes environmental and sustainable development matters. The Steering Group co-operates with such bodies if this could lead to benefits for the sustainable development work in the Regions of Europe.
- v.** Presence at conferences, congresses, workshops which are considered to be worthwhile.

b) Implementation and monitoring of ENCORE decisions

- i. ENCORE conference decisions. The ENCORE 2014 Conference agreed on the execution of political decisions concerning the alliances. Putting the alliances into action is the responsibility of the leading regions. The Steering Group will monitor the progress and report to the Steering Committee.
- ii. The Regions are invited to present initiatives under the ENCORE umbrella and report about them to the Steering Group.

c) Alliances

- i. *Best practises on climate change especially the defence against flooding and the cross-border cooperation on the rivers*
Leading regions: Bavaria (Germany), Utrecht (The Netherlands)
- ii. *Combatting climate change – decision making structures and political tools needed for conflict solution and local involvement*
Leading region: Västra Götaland (Sweden).
- iii. *Internet platform to exchange best (and worst) practices*
Managing region: Bavaria (Germany)
(1) Coordination of river systems
chaired by Bavaria (Germany)

- (2) Public support for sustainable energy and sustainability**
chaired by Drenthe (The Netherlands)
- (3) Exploring the possibilities of the Genuine Process Indicator**
chaired by North-Karelia (Finland)
- (4) Sustainable Tourism especially in / around protected areas**
chaired by Jämtland (Sweden)
- (5) Payment for eco-system services**
chaired by Utrecht (The Netherlands)
- (6) Experiences with the use of biogas**
chaired by Västra Götaland (Sweden)
- (7) Landstewardship**
chaired by Catalonia (Spain)

- iv. *Cradle to cradle and waste management*
Leading region: Carinthia (Austria)
- v. *Air Quality*
Leading region: Styria (Austria).
- vi. *Creating a network on the exchange of experiences regarding the chain from production to the use of biogas and its promotion*
Leading region: Västra Götaland (Sweden).

ENCORE meetings between ENCORE 2014 and ENCORE 2016

vii. Freshwater reserves

Leading region: Drenthe (The Netherlands).

viii. Ecosystem services, landuse and territorial planning

Leading region: Utrecht (The Netherlands).

ix. Creating a European network on landstewardship (landstewardship.eu)

Leading region: Catalonia (Spain).

- d)** Results will be realized and presented during the next ENCORE conference in 2016 and during the biannual period to all interested regions via the ENCORE website.

22) Meetings of the ENCORE Steering Group

The Steering Group usually meets twice a year: in summer 2014 in Carinthia and in October 2014 in the Basque Country. Meetings in 2015 and 2016 will be announced at the ENCORE Website. The Steering Group monitors the progress of the action plan and the results of the alliances.

23) The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee meets at least once a year.

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