



ENCORE

**Olsztyn Action Plan (OLAP)
2010 - 2012**



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I General results of ENCORE 2010

I.1. At the 9th Environment Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE 2010) held in Olsztyn, Warmia and Mazury (Poland), on 10-12 June 2010, the participating Regions confirmed their commitment to improve the environment and to promote sustainable development in Europe and climate change mitigation.

I.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 with the aim of:

- having a greater impact on EU decision-making;
- functioning as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience;
- giving greater transparency to innovative policy practice;
- enhancing the role of the Regions in the development and implementation of environmental and sustainable development policies at the regional, national, European and international level.

I.3. 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). 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. During ENCORE 2010, 2 new Regions signed the Valencia Charter bringing total number of signatories to 112.

I.4. The Conference also welcomed the Report on the monitoring of the Aragon Action Plan (ARAP) presented by Aragon Region. Within the ARAP, it is appropriate to underline the successful work and excellent results of the ENCORE Working Groups.

I.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.

I.6. The Conference welcomed the establishing of permanent ENCORE Secretariat in Aragon which task is to help co-chairs in administrative duties.

II ENCORE objectives and core structure

II 1. The ENCORE Valencia Charter describes the driving motivation underpinning the work of ENCORE:

“We believe that solutions 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



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contribute. We recognise the importance of regional differences and the opportunity to test new ideas and policies at regional level. It is important that these are taken into account in the formulation of environmental policies, both at national and EU levels”.

II.2 ENCORE activities are organised by individual European Regions or by Regions jointly under the supervision of the ENCORE Steering Group. The Steering Group currently consists of Regional Officials from 16 EU Member States from 19 different regions, who act under the direction of their Ministers. The aim of the Steering Group is to include one region of each EU Member State as a member. The Steering Group is Co-chaired by the Officials who represent the Region that will host the next Conference, together with the Region that has hosted the last Conference.

II 3. ENCORE engages in the following core activities:

Conferences:

The driving force of ENCORE is the biennial Conference for the regional environment Ministers and political leaders. Each Conference has one or more specific themes. During each Conference, a progress Report is presented on the activities carried out since the last Conference.

The themes of the ENCORE 2010 are: Mitigating against and adapting to climate change; Biodiversity; Natural Food.

The conference arrangements and other activities are handled by the Regions in close cooperation with the ENCORE Steering Group.

Seminars, workshops, working groups, partnerships with other networks, research and exchange of best practice:

To carry out activities in the period between the conferences, the leaders of the different themes in the work programme 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 research projects under the ENCORE umbrella.

Meetings of politicians

In the period between ENCORE Conferences, regional ministers and political leaders meet to discuss current political events. More specifically, the Co-Presidents of ENCORE will convene an annual meeting of the Ministers of the Regions which are represented in the ENCORE Steering Group.

Regular meetings with the EU Commissioner for Environment and the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy

Representatives of ENCORE meet regularly with the European Commissioner for Environment and the European Commissioner for Regional Policy to discuss current political issues as well as the preparation of the next Conference.



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Cooperation with other European networks

ENCORE will maintain its current collaboration and seeks to collaborate with other European networks that have an interest in environmental and sustainable development issues.

Web site:

The ENCORE web site consists of a central tool for communicating these activities and for encouraging co-operation between the different partners and the exchange of experiences. The ENCORE Secretariat is responsible for the web site management.

III ENCORE strategy

III.1. At the ENCORE Conference in Olsztyn in June 2010 the following strategy was adopted by the Regions:

- to strengthen international political cooperation among the Regions of Europe by organising meetings of political leaders and Ministers;
- to strengthen the environment and sustainable development throughout Europe by promoting Agenda 21 at regional level in co-operation with citizens, organisations, enterprises, other governmental levels and other social and economic partners;
- to work in partnership with businesses at regional level and to involve educational and research institutions in this co-operation in order to acquire new environmental research and knowledge - and to implement this in both enterprises and public institutions;
- to co-operate with the European Commission in implementing the renewed Lisbon and Sustainable Development Strategies as well as the 6th Environmental Action Programme and to ensure that the practical experience of the Regions in implementing EU law is reflected in the future work of the Commission;
- to implement the EU 2020 strategy;
- to recognise the value of ecosystem services as referred to in the study on The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB);
- to coordinate sustainable development policies between the regional, the national and the international level.

To implement this strategy, the Regions will work on selected themes.



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IV ENCORE priorities 2010 – 2012

IV.1. The Conference agreed to the following priority themes for ENCORE for the period 2010 – 2012:

- Climate Change and Nature
 - Climate change - threats and opportunities for regional development
 - Mitigating against climate change
 - Adapting to climate change
 - Working towards sustainable development

- Biodiversity - managing the effects of a changing environment
 - Strategies for nature conservation
 - Biodiversity - the responsibility of the regions
 - Involvement of regional authorities

- Natural Food
 - National and European food quality systems
 - Development of local and regional natural food

V. ENCORE Work Programme 2010 - 2012

V.1. The ENCORE 2010 Conference highlighted the special importance of biodiversity in relation to the challenge of climate change. The Conference urged the Regions of Europe to adopt innovative and effective policies in these areas and to work with the Steering Group to communicate these policies to other Regions of Europe, associations of regions in member states, national environment ministries and other public bodies, particularly the European Institutions. It is envisaged that seminars, working groups and other activities will be an appropriate mean of achieving such communication and all Regions of Europe are encouraged to contact the Steering Group with their ideas for such ENCORE events.

V.2. ENCORE has strengthen its role as a forum to communicate ideas and best practice on sustainable development issues. The Steering Group will work with the Regions to develop new ENCORE initiatives and consolidate that forum.

V.3. The ENCORE Work Programme 2010 – 2012 proposes to continue with the following seven different types of activities:

V.3.1 Contacts with other networks, European institutions and the European headquarters of other international organisations like the UN

V.3.2 Implementation and monitoring of ENCORE decisions



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V.3.3 Promoting the ENCORE Valencia Charter

V.3.4 Seminars, workshops, partnerships with other networks, research and exchange of best practice

V.3.5 Partnerships between "old" and "new" EU Regions

V.3.6 Working Groups

V.3.7 Preparation of ENCORE 2012.

V.4 Contacts with other networks, European institutions and the European headquarters of other international organisations

The Conference welcomed the active role that the Minister for the Environment of Aragon and Co-President of ENCORE, Mr. Alfredo Boné Pueyo, together with the Member of the Board of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship and Co-President of ENCORE, Mr. Jarosław Słoma, have played in EU events, such as ENCORE UNFCCC-COP15 side event: "Taking Action Now! A European Regional Perspective", during which they promoted ENCORE and the role of the Regions in the field of Environment. The Conference encouraged the host of the next ENCORE Conference, to continue Mr. Boné's and Mr. Słoma's work in these fora.

The Regions of Europe should continue 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 was asked to 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 Conference asked the Steering Group to consider co-operation with such bodies if this could lead to benefits for the sustainable development work in the Regions of Europe.

The conference decided to cooperate more closely with the Euroregion Baltic. The ERB was established in February 1998 and is a politically solid and well-anchored cooperation in the south-east of the Baltic Sea region, consisting of eight regions of Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. It was the first Euroregion to have formally included a partner from the Russian Federation. Since its early days ERB has been pursuing the goals of improving life conditions for its inhabitants, promoting bonds and contacts among local communities, and providing measures for a more sustainable development within the region. These then proved challenging tasks for the organisation which included EU member states, acceding countries, and the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation.

Comprising the regions from both old and new EU Member States, and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast, Euroregion Baltic constitutes the operational network of substantial



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and effective links across the borders, facilitating the promotion of political dialogue and reform, as well as sustainable, economic, social and environmental development, and thus strengthening local democracy and fostering people-to-people contacts between civil societies. The co-operation actively involves both local and regional authorities, private and public sectors, and NGOs.

V.5 Implementation and monitoring of ENCORE decisions

The ENCORE 2010 Conference asked the Regions of Europe to contribute actively to the monitoring of ENCORE activities carried out by the Regions in the period 2010 - 2012. The Steering Group was asked to work together with the Warmia-Mazury Region on the Monitoring Report of the Olsztyn Action Plan that will be presented at ENCORE 2012.

The Conference accepted the work of Aragón on the ARAP Monitoring Report. The Report includes a description and analysis of the ENCORE activities that took place in the period in between the ENCORE 2008 and the ENCORE 2010 Conferences.

V.6 The ENCORE Valencia Charter

The ENCORE Secretariat will from now on be the depository of the ENCORE Valencia Charter. The Secretariat will contact the other Regions and invite them to sign the Charter.

V.7 Seminars, workshops, partnerships with other networks, exchange of best practice and research on specific themes and topics

The Regions are invited to present to the ENCORE Steering Group initiatives that they would like to develop under the ENCORE umbrella, in particular in relation to the implementation of the ENCORE Valencia Charter and to the priority themes listed in Article 13. So far, the following activities have been announced:

V.7.1 Thematic seminars/workshops

V.7.1.1. Climate Change and Nature

Activity: IV International Meeting of Water Experts: Water Quality, Climate Change and Biodiversity. Renowned Water Experts from Worldwide will gather in Aragon to discuss about the effects of climate change on water quality and water quality in relation to biodiversity issues. This will be the fourth time that well known International Experts gather in Aragon to discuss water related issues.

Date and place: Zaragoza, November 2010

Activity: ENCORE Minister's event at COP 16-UNFCCC Mexico. A side-event of ENCORE Minister's attending Mexico dealing with "Climate Change and Biodiversity:



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EU Regions Taking Action Now!” (the title is only provisional, have to confirm it with the SG).

V.7.1.2. Sustainable Development

Activity: Drenthe and Aragon will organize a bi-regional symposium on the theme ‘Sport and sustainable development’. Aspects like sport and environment, climate change, water management and sustainable energy shall be topics to be addressed. The symposium aims to attract participants from the regional governments and from the private sector.

V.7.2 Partnerships with other organizations/networks

V.7.2.1. ERB -Euroregion Baltic

V.7.2.2. NRG4SD

V.7.2.3. The Climate Group

V.7.2.4. UNEP

V.7.2.5 UNDP

V.7.2.6. EEA

V.7.2.7. ENEA

V.7.2.8. EPRO

V.7.3 Thematic Research Projects and exchange of best practice

SURF-Nature - Sustainable Use of Regional Funds for Nature under the InterregIVC programme

The project is a partnership of 14 authorities and public bodies (or bodies under public law) working together to optimise regional policies and practices with regard to promotion and preservation of natural heritage, biodiversity, and nature conservation through improving opportunities for and the impacts of financing these measures from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). SURF-Nature partnership will carry out a series of activities aimed at the identification, analysis and dissemination of experience and good practice with using ERDF funds for nature conservation. Partners will analyse existing ERDF funding programmes (OPs) to identify how nature conservation is integrated into the process. A data base of 60 good practice investment projects will be created. The partnership will conduct a series of interregional workshops on specific funding themes and a series of training sessions within partner regions. Based on the results, partners will produce guidance documents covering



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specific funding themes, investment project development, and the next generation of funding programmes. Start: beginning of 01.2010 end 12 2012.

WATER CoRe -Water scarcity and droughts; coordinated actions in European regions
Approved. Lead partner of the project is Hessen Involved among others: Emilia Romagna, Aragon. Water CoRe intends to provide an exchange platform for water scarcity and drought issues on regional and local level for all European regions.

Manev - Evaluation of manure management and treatment technology for environmental protection and sustainable livestock farming in Europe under the programme Life +.

The project will be implemented in the following Countries: Spain, Italy, Denmark and Poland. Administrative region(s): Aragon, Midjytlland, Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Catalonia, Castilla y León, Murcia and Warmia-Mazury. Start date: 01/01/2011 Expected end date: 31/12/2014. MANEV is based on the know-how of different European countries regarding the management and treatment of the livestock manure, with the participation of different actors implied in the livestock sector (regional and local governments, Universities, research centres, and farms unions).

This project wants to demonstrate that both the use of treatment technology and an environmental correct management scheme contribute to a reduction of GHG emissions.

V.8. Partnerships between “old” and “new” Regions

The Conference asked all Regions to continue improving contacts, and to start partnerships with Regions from the new Member States, and recognized that the enlargement of the Steering Group will facilitate this process.

V.9. Working Groups

The Conference recognized the importance of the ENCORE Working Groups that guarantee continuity and visibility of ENCORE activities. The three existing Working Groups will continue their activities during the next two years and a new Working Group on Renewable Energy will be established. The establishment of a new Working Group on Soil Protection will be considered.

V.9.1. Working group on climate change

Leading region: North Rhine Westphalia, Germany

Objective: to present Regional activities in the field of Climate Change (adaptation and mitigation measures); to provide a platform of communication between Regional experts and decision makers; to extend and intensify networking and co-operation between Regions; to share best practice; to develop and refine Regional strategies.



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Activities: maintenance of the website of the working group launched in 2007 (www.regional-climate.eu); sharing information on best practice; identifying projects with a common interest, organizing conferences.

V.9.2. Working Group on Biodiversity.

Leading region: Tuscany, Italy

Objectives:

- analyze the implementation of the Birds and Habitats directives, developing the priority themes defined in them and completing the previous activities of the Working Group.

Activities:

- analysis of regional strategies and good practices by web contacts and technical meetings;
- sharing information on good practices;
- identifying possible projects with a common interest;
- presenting to European Commission the identified regional strategies and good practices as a contribution to the EU policy for the common task of reducing the loss of biodiversity in Europe.

V.9.3. Working Group on Water.

Objectives:

To promote regional awareness and co-operation in the fields of

- Integrated River Basin Management
- Water Quality Management
- Application of the Water Framework Directive
- Application of the Flood Directive
- Water Scarcity and Drought management

Activities:

- Continuing the previous activities of the Working Group by sharing information on good practices and by identifying and implementing possible projects of common interest.

Leading region: Aragón, Spain

V.9.4. Working Group on Renewable Energy

Leading region: Västra Götaland, Sweden

V.9.5. Working Group on Soil Protection

Leading region: Drenthe, Netherlands



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V.10. ENCORE Permanent Secretariat

The Conference welcomed the offer of Aragón to run the ENCORE Permanent Secretariat which task is to support Co-Presidents in administration issues.

V.11. Preparation of ENCORE 2012 – Drenthe, Netherlands

V.11.1 The Conference welcomed the offer of Drenthe to host the next ENCORE Conference in 2012 and asked the ENCORE Steering Group to work with Drenthe to organize a successful conference.

After closure of the ENCORE 2010 Conference, the Co-Presidency of ENCORE is in the hands of Warmia-Mazury and Drenthe.

The Conference thanked Aragón for its commitment to ENCORE as Co-President during the last 4 years.

V.11.2 The Steering Group was asked to keep the Regions of Europe informed of the progress on all these issues through the ENCORE website, e-mail and other forms of communication. The Steering Group was asked to produce a full report on its work in 2010-2012 at the next Conference in Drenthe in 2012. This report should also include its proposals for the following two years. These proposals are to be debated and agreed upon at ENCORE 2012.

Adopted by the Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE), Olsztyn, Warmia-Mazury, Poland, 11 June 2010.

Mr. Alfredo Boné Pueyo	Mr. Jarosław Słoma	Ms. Tanja Klip Martin
Minister for the Environment. Government of Aragón.	Member of the Representative Council for the Environment. Warmia-Mazury.	Member of Executive Board of Province of Drenthe.
Co-chair Period 2006-2010	Co-chair Period 2008-2012	Co-chair Period 2010-2014
Signature:	Signature:	Signature: