



The Villach Resolution Review **2004**

Analysis of Responses to a Questionnaire
on Sustainability Policies and Practices
in European Regions

with
Recommendations for Action

Prepared for the ENCORE network of European Regions

by

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The Villach Resolution

Analysis of Responses to the 2004 Questionnaire and Recommendations for Action

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1.0 Summary and Recommendations for Action

1.1 43 Regions from across Europe responded to the Questionnaire, which set out to review the implementation of 6 principal objectives in the Villach Resolution, adopted at ENCORE 2001 in Villach, Carinthia, Austria. In this analysis of the responses, the following conclusions can be made, and a number of Actions are listed for discussion at ENCORE 2004 in Florence.

1.2 The general impression is that all Regions are **making progress** in developing policies, implementing actions and monitoring progress on a very wide range of environmental issues. **Excellent examples of work on sustainability issues** have been demonstrated, mostly in the field of environmental sustainability. There are few Regions demonstrating fully integrated economic, social and environmental policies and actions, but

there is a desire to move in that direction. Regions mostly **use positive funding** measures to promote greater sustainability, rather than using negative fiscal and/or legislative powers (largely due to limits in powers - but often Regions prefer dialogue to regulation).

1.3 Information is now available on many regional authorities' **websites**, but most of these are not easily accessible. Some good examples are now accessible through the ENCORE website, and more can be added to inform a wider audience.

1.4 From the information gathered through this survey, and an assessment of the information supplied, a number of important issues requiring some attention, discussion and action have been drawn out and are highlighted in the following **Actions**.

Action 1: *Regional Sustainable Development Strategies* require to demonstrate an integrated approach to sustainable development covering economic, social and environmental issues together, across all a regional authority's responsibilities and activities. Regions need to assess more critically whether their strategies / plans fit this description as yet.

Action 2: Regions should promote the concept **eco-efficiency**, and encourage the incorporation of the term more widely in policy documents.

Action 3: Good practice should build on **EMAS, ISO 14001, Environmental Awards and Eco- Labelling** where European initiatives are already established and recognised, and can be adopted across all Regions in a uniform and comparable manner.

Action 4: There is a need for the formulation of a range of **sustainability indicators** that can be adopted across the maximum number of Regions, and can be used to benchmark a Region's performance Europe-wide.

Action 5: Regions should promote good practice examples on the **ENCORE website**, covering initially the following key topics - Sustainable Development Strategies

Eco-efficiency activities

Green Purchasing policies and practices

Auditing of SD efforts

Comparable Sustainability Indicators.

The website should highlight the range of policies and practices that have been successfully adopted and implemented, and the information on the website requires to be **regularly updated**.

Action 6: At each successive **ENCORE Conference** – and between Conferences - examples of good/best practice in each of the above key topics should be highlighted through seminars/workshops or special presentations. In addition programming should allow for sessions to promote the progress/outcome of partnership projects, and to explore partnerships in new topic areas.

Action 7: The ENCORE Steering Group should establish a fully activated **network of national representatives**, to facilitate and improve, amongst other activities, future surveys and the communication amongst Regions.

Action 8: ENCORE Regions should give priority to promoting and participating in **joint working projects** on Green Purchasing, Comparable Sustainability Indicators, and Integrating the 3 Dimensions of Sustainability, and disseminating the experiences gained.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 **ENCORE**, the ENvironmental COnference of the Regions of Europe, is a platform for regional ministers and political leaders in the European Union (EU) to

- discuss environmental issues of regional significance,
- establish a common position,
- exert collective influence on environmental policy in the EC,
- create a network that will facilitate the establishment of project partnerships, and
- share and exchange experience and good practice on sustainability matters.

Between Conferences ENCORE work is progressed by the **ENCORE Steering Group**, where one regional representative from - in principle - each EU country participates

2.2 **The Villach Resolution** is a document adopted at the Fifth Environment Conference of the Regions of Europe (September 2001) held in Carinthia, Austria (the Resolution objectives are outlined in Appendix A). This Resolution followed on from other ENCORE initiatives to promote sustainability at the regional and local level, such as the Brussels Resolution, the Valencia Charter, the Göteborg Resolution and the Wexford Resolution.

2.3 **The Valencia Charter** (1995) commits regions to act in an environmentally friendly way and to pursue the aims of sustainable development. To date 94 Regions have signed up to the Charter. In Göteborg in 1997 the Resolution adopted, covered the areas of EU Environmental law - development and implementation - Regional Agenda 21 processes, and the "greening" of the Structural Funds. This Conference also confirmed the need to monitor and consolidate the outcome of ENCORE Conferences. The Wexford Conference in 1999 produced a

Resolution on Nature Protection and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), contributions of the Regions to Climate Change, and Electronic Cooperation. That Conference had a presentation on the results of a questionnaire survey of all the regions in the EU.

2.4 Prior to the **6th ENCORE meeting in Florence**, Tuscany, the Steering Group commissioned a review of how elements of the Villach Resolution were being implemented across the Regions of Europe. A questionnaire was sent to all members at the end of 2003, and an analysis of the responses was completed in March 2004. Not all regions responded – 43 questionnaires were returned by mid February, 2004 (list of responding Regions is in Appendix C).

2.5 **The Questionnaire** sets out to examine how Regions are progressing with the implementation of the principal Villach Resolution Objectives (VROs), to establish where good practice is being developed in pursuing various aspects of sustainable policies and practices, and helps to identify ways in which regions could work together to assist in the practical implementation of the Resolution. The questions were limited in number, and fairly general in their scope. Some Authorities provided additional information, and some supplied local documentation about their policies and activities.

2.6 **This Report** sets out the results of the survey – a statistical analysis is presented for each of the questions, and then a critical assessment of the responses based on the accompanying information. The Report also makes a number of recommendations about possible actions in order to stimulate discussion at the 6th ENCORE meeting in Florence, 1-2 April, 2004.

3.0 Analysis

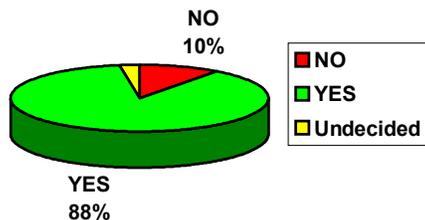
Responses

3.1 There were responses from 43 Regions across Europe, with a wide spread from most mainland European countries. 26 of the regional authorities who attended ENCORE 2001 in Villach, Austria responded to this questionnaire, with the remaining 17 responses being from 'new' Regions. There were no responses from England, France, Finland, Greece and Wales (Regions in these countries had responded to previous surveys and / or attended previous Meetings). Single responses were received from Belgium and the UK. There may be a number of reasons for this variable level and distribution of responses, and future ENCORE Steering Groups may wish to give this some attention, especially with the enlargement of the EU/Regions later this year (see Action 7 in Conclusions). Nevertheless the responses actually received do give a very broad picture of progress and achievement.

A Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development

3.2 Almost all of the respondents (88%) answered that their regional authority had a Strategy for Sustainable Development. Some of the examples submitted are succinct documents, as for Vastra Gotaland which is summarised on 2 pages. Others are more detailed, such as for the Basque Region, which covers 8 pages.

Figure 1.
Regions with a Sustainable Development Strategy



3.3 Many regions have put forward their Regional Environmental Policy documents as examples of a Sustainable Development Strategy. These examples often only cover the physical environment, water, and/or air quality issues. There is a wide interpretation of what constitutes a strategic policy document for sustainable development (SD) across the Regions. The variety of documents from the regions' submissions put forward as examples of "A Strategy for Sustainable Development" include,

- A Provincial Environmental Policy Plan
- An Agenda 21 Strategy
- Participating in the National SD Strategy
- A Regional Plan
- A Strategy for Regional Development
- A Water and Environment Policy
- A Strategic Plan for the Physical Environment
- Regional Policy for SD
- An Environment Action Plan for SD
- An Environmental Plan

3.4 There appears to be a lack of clarity and consistency about what constitutes a "Strategy for Sustainable Development". SD involves the balancing of environmental, social and economic concerns. Some of the 'strategies' listed above are strong in tackling environmental issues in a sustainable way; others tackle a wider range of regional authorities' responsibilities and talk of an intention to work in a more integrated manner towards a sustainable Region, eg Schleswig-Holstein's SD Strategy. The appearance of a significant number of Regions having an SD Strategy in Figure 1 is not borne out when the actual documentation is studied.

3.5 The EU 6th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP) encourages the integration of environmental concerns into other policies. The European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development recognises that economic growth, social cohesion and environmental

protection must go hand in hand and there needs to be a cross-sectoral approach. Many of the Regions have stated that they are responding to these changes, and accept that they have much more to do, to integrate the 3 dimensions of sustainable development across their activities. Some Regions are looking to share experience, and improve their practices (see paragraph 3.20 below).

Action 1: Regional Sustainable Development Strategies require to demonstrate an integrated approach to sustainable development covering economic, social and environmental issues together, across all a regional authority's responsibilities and activities. Regions need to assess more critically whether their strategies / plans fit this description as yet.

Progress on the Villach Resolution Objectives (VROs)

VRO 1. Seek to reduce the demand on natural resources and increase eco-efficiency in their regions.

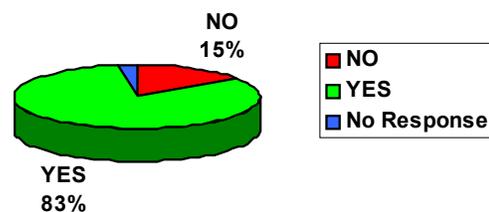
3.6 The questionnaire asks if Regions have made efforts to reduce demand and increase eco-efficiency. Every Region that responded (except one) has answered positively with activities that demonstrate their commitment, including the development of **policies and plans**, the identification of **action priorities**, establishing **management schemes**, setting **targets**, and/or promoting **stakeholder interest and involvement**. Eco-efficiency is not a term used (or fully understood?) by all the Regions. Vastra Gotaland explicitly acknowledged that they did not use the term, and the concept appears in only some Regions' policy documents. This is in contrast to the terms 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability' which are widely used and variably interpreted (see definitions in Appendix B).

Action 2: Regions should promote the concept eco-efficiency, and encourage the incorporation of the term more widely in policy documents.

VRO 2. Adapt regional funding and legislation to comply with these goals.

3.7 Fiscal and legislative measures are recognised as effective means to achieve a reduction in the demand of natural resources, and to achieve greater eco-efficiency. These 2 aspects were explored in separate questions. The majority of Regions stated they are using financial measures to pursue VRO1 goals, as demonstrated in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2.
Regions adapting Funding VRO 2a

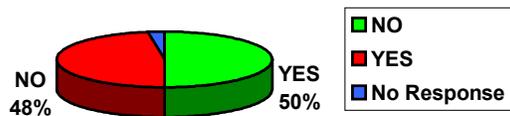


Most Regions are using financial **support** measures to assist and promote sustainability, rather than imposing taxes to discourage unsustainable practices or to reflect external costs. Using taxation by Regions was not referred to. Usually Regions indicated that they were providing funding for example to promote Environmental Management Systems (EMSs), to promote the reduction of CO₂ emissions, funding for information networks (community and business), for eco-services and products, for promoting alternative energy sources, and for environmental projects. Regional funding for measures under this VR objective often follow the criteria applied for European Structural Funds (as mentioned by Andalusia and Wallonia).

3.8 Many Regions stated that they did not have legislative competences, and so Figure 3 for VRO 2b is significantly different. Legislative and Fiscal powers

vary across the Regions. In Scotland for example, whilst the Scottish Parliament has legislative powers, fiscal powers rest with the UK Government (which introduced nationally, a Landfill Tax and the Aggregates Levy). Andalusia, Tuscany and Bavaria are examples of Regions exercising some legislative powers.

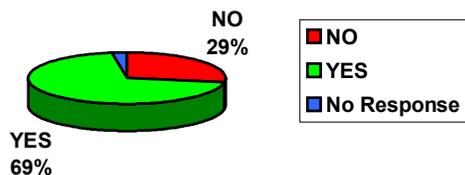
Figure 3.
Regions adapting Regional Legislation VRO 2b



VRO 3. Regard eco-efficient products and services as important criteria for public purchasing.

3.9 There is a full range of responses to this question in the review. Some authorities do not as yet have a developed policy, some are in preparation, and others have developed green purchasing in specialist areas (such as sustainable housing materials, or organic food). The 69% positive response (Figure 4 below shows responses) includes Regions who have partial policies and some who have

Figure 4.
Eco-efficiency introduced in Region's purchasing VRO 3



policies in late stages of preparation. Examples of participating Regions include Aarhus, which has had an established policy for some years now, and Aragon, where some public enterprises require ISO 14001 certification from their suppliers. Adopting Environmental Management

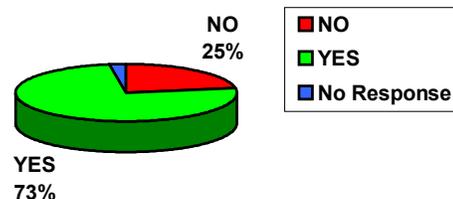
Systems (EMS) and achieving ISO 14001 certification are seen by several Regions such as Lombardy, as the way forward to improve performance in meeting this objective.

3.10 As will be seen from later responses to questions about possible joint projects and the need for assistance, green purchasing features strongly. The subject is highlighted by only one Region – Aarhus – as an example of good practice. Thuringen indicates that their Region has not been able to pursue this VR objective, as they have not identified “independent and measurable criteria for eco-efficiency for public purchasing”. Other Regions have started in limited areas – office materials, energy – and then are extending their involvement into infrastructure projects, in an evolutionary process (such as in South Holland).

3.11 This is an important area where Regions can have a direct impact on local sustainability and eco-efficiency, and there is considerable potential for close co-operation and joint sharing of experience and practice. One of ENCORE’s purposes is for the exchange of experience, and green purchasing is clearly an area where this role would be of great benefit (see Action 5 later, following paragraph 3.21).

VRO 4. Encourage projects for the promotion of eco-efficiency in partnership with other EU, AC as well as other CEE and Euro NIS regions.

Figure 5.
Regions cooperating with other Regions VRO 4a



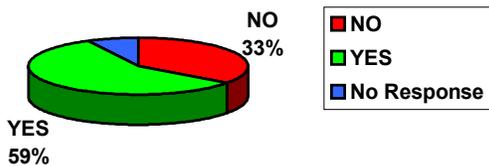
3.12 The majority of Regions have joint projects in existence, most usually with other EC countries (see abbreviations

in Appendix B). Of the 43 responding Regions in the survey

- 29 Regions have partnerships with other EU Regions,
- 17 Regions have partnerships with Regions in AC countries,
- 9 Regions have partnerships with Regions in other CEE and Euro NIS countries, and
- 2 Regions have joint projects with Regions in Asia.

3.13 59% of the responding Regions are keen to find other partners for co-operation projects on eco-efficiency (Figure 6). Some of the other 33% (NO) Regions are not prepared to undertake further partnerships, preferring to concentrate on the current ones with the limited resources that they currently have.

Figure 6.
Regions seeking cooperation on Eco-efficiency projects with other Regions VRO 4b

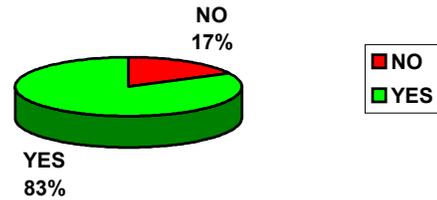


3.14 From all the questionnaire returns, 25% of the Regions did not have any partnerships at present. 70% of these 'no-partnership' Regions wish to find other Regions to co-operate with on a project. Some of these co-operation opportunities are highlighted later in this report (see paragraph 3.23).

VRO 5. Initiate public awareness programmes for eco-efficiency and promote green purchasing

3.15 Whilst a high proportion (83%) of the Regions have initiated public awareness, many of these gave emphasis initially to very specific work areas, for example to schools and youths (Groningen and Wallonia), to SMEs (in Groningen and Galicia), to a cluster of environmental businesses (Skane), or through promoting EMS (Thuringen). Using TV and Radio to promote awareness more widely, has been used in Scotland, and other PR

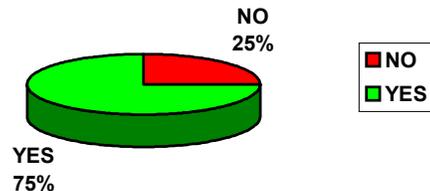
Figure 7.
Initiating Public Awareness programmes for Eco-efficiency VRO 5a



programmes have been developed in Carinthia and Vejle. Information promotion is a common approach, eg in Tuscany, Utrecht, South Holland and Andalucia. A few Regions have developed their own Awards systems to promote good sustainable practices in businesses, for example in Aragon, Baden-Wurttemberg and Thuringen.

3.16 Most Regions (75%) have responded that their Region promoted green purchasing, as required in VRO5 (see Figure 8). Only two Regions, Galicia and Lombardy, have explicitly mentioned Eco-Labeling in their responses. This is a European standard adoptable across all Regions, which could assist in the promotion of green purchasing. Several European countries have their own eco-labelling schemes, and there are moves to coordinate these. Baden-Wurttemberg has used the 'Blue Angel' symbol for many years.

Figure 8.
Promoting Green Purchasing VRO 5b

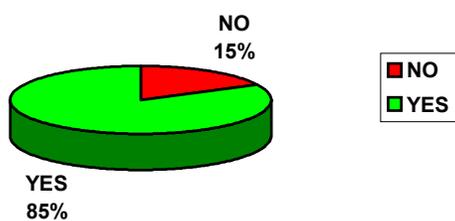


Action 3: Good practice should build on EMAS, ISO 14001, Environmental Awards and Eco-Labeling where European initiatives are already established and recognised, and can be adopted across all Regions in a uniform and comparable manner.

VRO 6. Support and participate in projects to develop comparable headline indicators for sustainable development.

3.17 1.2.6 of the Villach Resolution talks of Regions supporting and participating in projects to develop comparable headline indicators for sustainable development. Many regions (85%) have developed indicators, some covering a very wide range of criteria. In Scotland their SD indicators have been developed to reflect their own priorities (after examining many international examples). Basque Country has an extensive range of indicators - from water quality to energy consumption and waste management, but including also the establishment of EMS in companies and the development and implementation of LA21 schemes. Andalucia has a wide range of environmental indicators, but wants to develop a broader set to cover economical and social aspects. (Other Regions are in a similar situation.) Wallonia has its own list of 13 headline topics and has published its performance relative to the European Structural Indicators. Lombardy has 16 pointers of performance, and these extend to mobility, health and economy, as well as the environment.

Figure 9.
Developing Comparable Indicators
VRO 6



3.18 Some work is required to investigate how comparable each Region's indicators are. The present arrangement of each region/country having its own range of environmental or sustainability indicators severely limits a trans-european approach to monitoring progress. Benchmarking for Regions wishing to gauge their relative performance to other partner authorities is difficult without standardised indicators

and management/monitoring schemes. Some Regions are working together in areas to choose common indicators, eg Regions in Holland, and Regions around the Adriatic (in an INTERREG III Project). In Germany Bavaria, Baden-Wurtemberg, Hessen and Thuringen developed a code of practice named "Indicators in the context of a local agenda 21".

Action 4: *There is a need for the formulation of a range of sustainability indicators that can be adopted across the maximum number of Regions, and can be used to benchmark a Region's performance Europe-wide.*

Auditing

3.19 Almost all of the Regions that responded to the questionnaire carried out some form of auditing of sustainable development activities, with

- 38 of the Regions auditing their own activities,
- 34 of the Regions auditing progress in their area, and
- 39 of the Regions publishing the results in a regular report.

Some authorities have published their audits on their websites in order to give their reports public availability. Only a few of these are easily accessible.

Some examples of audits and indicators are accessible from the website addresses listed in Appendix D at the end of this Report and on the ENCORE website.

Examples of Good Practice

3.20 A wide variety of good practices have been put forward by Regions (87% put forward examples of good practice) and these are available in the following list. The examples have been grouped together where possible, for easy reference. Perhaps the most surprising areas are in Green Purchasing and Sustainability Indicators, where only one Region has indicated the development of good practice for each of these key issues - Aarhus and Thuringen respectively.

To date only 5 Regions have indicated that they have provided example(s) of good practice for the ENCORE Website. 23 more Regions are prepared to provide this information. Many more Regions have documentation on their own authority's policies, activities and annual reports on their own websites. Environmental or sustainability pages are not always easily accessible on these sites, and language diversity limits their attractiveness to other Regions across Europe (and beyond).

Sustainable Development (SD) Strategies.

SD Strategy	Galicia
Strategy for SD	Basque Country
Strategy for SD	Schleswig-Holstein
Local and Regional SD Strategies	Upper Austria
Future Strategy and its Assessment	Wallonia
Sustainable Terrestrial Planning	Liguria
Integrated Policies	Limburg
Integration of environmental concerns	
into different policies and actions	Marche
Environment Pact	Bavaria
SD Forum	Scotland
Network for Regional SD	Skane
Involving local stakeholders	Vastra Gotaland

Local Agenda 21 (LA21)

LA21	Basque Country
LA21	Liguria
LA21	Tuscany
LA21 projects database	North Rhine Westphalia
Community Agenda 21	Bavaria
Implementation of LA21	Galicia
Regional Agenda 21	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Environment Management Systems (EMS)

EMAS and Environmental Certification	Tuscany
EMS	Aarhus
EMS	Vejle
EMS for Local Authorities	Liguria
Sustainability in own businesses	Vastra Gotaland

Sustainable Development Indicators

Indicators for SD	Thuringen
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Education and Awareness

Awareness, Education and Training Programmes	Upper Austria
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School Participation in eco-auditing	Upper Austria
Public – Private networking	Vejle
Environmental Gateway	Vejle
Database of best practice – local authority activities on sustainability	North Rhine Westphalia
Networking with particular action groups	Lower Austria

Green Purchasing

Green purchasing	Aarhus
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Business and Industry involvement

Sustainable industrial parks	Limburg
Environment Park	Piedmont
Sustainable business practices	Limburg
Sustainable business	Zeeland
Low profile Sustainability programmes for SMEs	Zeeland
Biofuel production	Carinthia
Eco Business Plan	Vienna
Eco-efficiency in organisations	Groningen
Cluster of environmental enterprises	Skane
Sustainable Business Hub	Skane
Clean production projects	North Rhine Westphalia

The Built Environment

Sustainable Building	Utrecht
Eco-compatible building plans	Liguria
Zero emission Village	Rheinland
Energy Sustainable Communities	Piedmont
Ecological standards of school buildings	Saarland
Solar energy at schools	Zeeland
Energy efficiency management in buildings	Dalarna

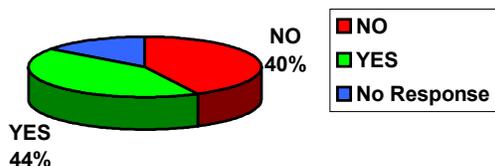
The Natural Environment

Promotion of protected areas	Campania
Environment Pact	Bavaria
Environmental Accounting	Liguria
Eco-auditorship project	Aragon
GMO free zone	Carinthia
Food production	Vastra Gotaland
Renaturation of rivers	Carinthia
Watercourse and lake restoration	Vejle
Wetland establishment	Vejle
Reuse of soils	Groningen
Soil remediation	Vejle
Sustainable carrying capacities of ecosystems	Limburg
Management and Conservation of natural environments	Andalucia
Eco Belt of Scandinavia	Jamtland
SD Plans for Natural Parks	Andalucia
Wildlife Gardens	Lower Austria

Resources

Paper and Trees	Aragon
Sustainability Glass	Emilia Romagna
Funding for renewable energy	Utrecht
Energy, air quality and external safety	South Holland
Energy efficiency	Vastra Gotaland
Renewable Energy	Vastra Gotaland
Renewables for public transport fuel	Stockholm
Climate protection	Upper Austria
Climate protection programme	Vienna
Water City	Fryslan
Waste separation at source	Orebro
Use of methane for sterilisation	Orebro
Pharmaceutical drugs and Environmental protection	Stockholm
Programme for regional green structure	Skane

Figure 10.
**Prepared to produce a website
in English on Region's
Environmental and SD efforts**



As Figure 10 shows, 19 Regions are prepared to develop a core information base (in English) to be linked to the ENCORE website, profiling environmental and sustainability efforts across the Regions. The current ENCORE website www.encoreweb.org has started to list some examples, and other useful/interesting websites are listed in Appendix D.

3.21 Websites are a good means of spreading and sharing information. However, face to face opportunities are still invaluable, to exchange experience and knowledge and for contacts and partnerships to be established. ENCORE exists to discuss environmental issues and network amongst its members to promote and exchange experience. As the number of countries and Regions in the EU expands significantly in 2004, ease of communication to share experience and good practice becomes critical for the

ENCORE network. Establishing an accessible, informative and popular source of contacts, assistance and ideas would help to promote speedier progress in achieving the Villach Resolution Objectives. A regularly up-dated ENCORE website, combined with (linked to) updated Regional websites, would be an important means of achieving this.

Action 5: *Regions should promote good practice examples on the ENCORE website, covering initially the following key topics*

- Sustainable Development Strategies,
- Eco-efficiency activities,
- Green Purchasing policies and practices,
- Auditing of SD efforts, and
- Comparable Sustainability Indicators.

The website should highlight the range of policies and practices that have been successfully adopted and implemented, and the information on the website requires to be regularly updated.

Action 6: *At each successive ENCORE Conference – and between Conferences – some examples of good/best practice in each of the above key topics should be highlighted through seminars/workshops or special presentations. In addition programming should allow for sessions to promote the progress/outcome of existing partnership projects, and to explore partnerships in new topic area*

Topics for Assistance

3.22 Some 45% of the responding Regions indicated that they were looking for some assistance on sustainability issues. The integration of the 3 dimensions of sustainable development featured strongly, as did monitoring and green purchasing. ENCORE may wish to consider how to encourage Regions to

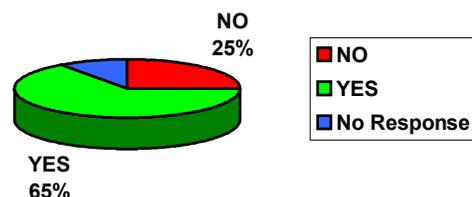
develop joint projects in these 3 important areas. As there is perceived to be limited examples of good practice in the areas of Green Purchasing and Sustainability Indicators (see paragraph 3.20 above), these would appear to be areas where more exchange of experience and joint working would be beneficial.

Social Aspects of SD	Thuringen
Integrating the 3 dimensions of sustainability	Vastra Gotaland
Triangular thinking	Limburg
Development of a Regional SD Strategy	North Rhine Westphalia
Regional Agenda 21 Activities	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Implementation of Sustainability Programmes	Skane
Legislative measures for Environmental issues	Andalucia
Stakeholder involvement	Scotland
Integrated indicators	Emilia-Romagna
Indicators and Monitoring	Vastra Gotaland
Information Exchange	Bavaria
Eco-auditorship for water, energy and waste	Aragon
Green Procurement	Liguria
Green Purchasing	Orebro
Green Purchasing	Piedmont
Sustainable Agriculture	Vejle
Urban and land planning	Marche
Development Plans	Piedmont
Mobility and the environment	South Holland
Transportation	Orebro
Greenhouse gas emissions	Basque Country
Municipal Waste	Basque Country
Contaminated soils	Basque Country
Coastal Protection	Basque Country
Saving water	Aragon
Eco-efficiency in paper	Aragon

Partnership Projects

3.23 Nearly two thirds of the responding Regions (Figure 11 shows the proportion of responses) are keen to undertake partnership projects on a sustainability issue. The issues and the relevant Regions are listed below. Others are undecided, or feel that they are already committed to joint working through existing projects – national, cooperation, or in an Interreg project.

Figure 11.
Seeking to work with other Regions on Sustainability



Topics for Partnerships

Balancing Economic, Social and Environmental aspects	
In political decisions	Skane
Environmental Technologies	Rheinland-Pfalz
Environmental Technology	Bavaria
Indicators and Monitoring	Vastra Gotaland
Environmental Accounting	Liguria
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Liguria
Networking with industry	Vejle
Green Purchasing	Liguria
Green Purchasing	Orebro
Eco-efficiency in awarding contracts	Andalucia
Eco-efficiency and Renewable energy sources	Liguria
Energy Eco-efficiency	Vastra Gotaland
Renewable energies	North Rhine Westphalia
Urban and land planning	Marche
Transportation	Orebro
Water, Energy and Waste	Wallonia
Eco-efficiency for water, energy and waste	Vastra Gotaland
Resources efficiency	North Rhine Westphalia
Air quality	Basque Country
Sustainable agriculture	Vejle
Reuse of soils and soil sanitation	Groningen

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 There has been a broad representation of responses from across the European Regions. However there have been no responses from significant areas, including France and England. The last survey carried out in 1999 resulted in many responses from English authorities - the lack of any responses from them this time may be due to the contacts and communication system operating. With the next ENCORE Conference to take place in 2006 after the EU has been significantly enlarged, it is critical that a core network of national ENCORE representatives/contacts is activated.

***Action 7** The ENCORE Steering Group should establish a fully activated **network of national representatives**, to facilitate and improve, amongst other activities, future surveys and the communication amongst Regions*

4.2 The general impression is that all Regions are making progress in developing policies, implementing actions and monitoring progress on a wide range of environmental issues. A lot of excellent examples have been demonstrated in the field of environmental sustainability, but there are fewer examples demonstrating fully integrated economic, social and environmental policies and actions.

4.3 ENCORE is a significant forum for Regional authorities to discuss environmental issues and create networks to facilitate project partnerships. Sharing and exchanging experience and good practice is another prime objective. Instead of each Region having to break new ground on their own sustainability issues, there are many examples of good practice and willing partners to assist and develop joint projects. Many Regions have developed their own funding programmes to promote aspects of sustainability - in schools and in businesses - as well as

promoting greater public awareness about environmental issues. Fewer Regions are able to use legislative powers to change practices and procedures that would benefit sustainability. In those circumstances, where the Regions are able to identify a priority area for change, collective influences can be promoted across the EU, and within the European Commission itself, for action at the appropriate level of competence.

4.4 Whilst there is a very broad diversity of environmental issues facing most Regions, the 3 key issues for detailed attention and potential joint working

- Green Purchasing
- Comparative Sustainability Indicators.
- Integrating the 3 Dimensions of Sustainability

These issues can be promoted through greater sharing of knowledge and experience. The last in particular requires a comprehensive partnership across all the Regions through an inter-regional or inter-national forum. Where partnerships exist, involving present member Regions working on these issues, ENCORE can assist to spread knowledge, experience and good practice.

***Action 8:** ENCORE Regions should give priority to promoting and participating in **joint working projects** on Green Purchasing, Comparable Sustainability Indicators, and Integrating the 3 Dimensions of Sustainability, and disseminating the experiences gained.*

4.5 Active participation on the ENCORE website, active discussions at ENCORE events, and close liaison and coordination will bring progress and success on the many issues highlighted in this report.

Appendix A: The Villach Resolution

In September 2001, the fifth Environment Conference of Regional Ministers and Political Leaders from 123 European Regions was held in Villach in the province of Carinthia, Austria. Views and experiences were exchanged at ENCORE 2001 on topics such as a sustainable economy and a sustainable process for the enlargement of the European Union.

One of the main outcomes of ENCORE 2001 was the Villach Resolution, which lists a number of commitments on, amongst others, eco-efficiency and sustainable development.

Commitments by the participating regions from EU member countries:

(numbers refer to sections in the Villach Resolution – see www.encoreweb.org for the full text)

- 1.2. The EU Regions, where their respective competencies allow, commit themselves to**
 - 1.2.1. seek to reduce the demand on natural resources and increase eco-efficiency in their regions.**
 - 1.2.2. adapt regional funding and legislation to comply with these goals.**
 - 1.2.3. regard eco-efficient products and services as important criteria for public purchasing.**
 - 1.2.4. encourage projects for the promotion of eco-efficiency in partnership with other EU, AC as well as other CEE and Euro NIS regions**
 - 1.2.5. initiate public awareness programmes for eco-efficiency and promote green purchasing**
 - 1.2.6. support and participate in projects to develop comparable headline indicators for sustainable development**

Appendix B: Abbreviations and Definitions

ABBREVIATIONS

6EAP	6th Environmental Action Programme
A21	Agenda 21
AC	Applicant Countries
EMAS	The EU Eco-Management and Auditing Scheme
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
ENCORE	Environment Conference of the Regions of Europe
EU	European Union
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
IPP	Integrated Product Policy
NIS	New Independent States
SD	Sustainable Development
VR	Villach Resolution
VRO	Villach Resolution Objective

DEFINITIONS

Auditing : Auditing involves a close and careful measurement, and recording, of information across a series of fixed criteria. This often implies the assessment being carried out by an independent body.

Benchmarking : Benchmarking is used by an organisation to compare its performance against others (particularly against the best examples) that measure their activities in a similar and consistent manner.

Eco-efficiency : This is a management concept that allows enterprises and authorities a more profitable organisation of their production and service processes, whilst reducing their ecological impacts. Eco-efficiency for an organisation should create more value, and at the same time involve the use of less resources; it should be an evolutionary process.

Eco-label : The European Eco-label is a voluntary scheme whereby consumers can easily identify officially approved green products across Europe. There are also national, regional and local 'eco-labels', which may have similar status as the European labelling system.

Eco-Management and Audit Scheme : The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme integrates environmental management systems, environmental auditing and monitoring, and ISO 14001. There is an EMAS logo for organisations to publicise their achievement of registration / accreditation (ie. the organisations have demonstrated that their philosophies, investment strategies and day to day operations are in accordance with an EMAS model).

Environmental Management System : This is a method, and a tool, for systematically studying and revising an organisation's policies and practices, with the purpose of improving its environmental performance.

Environmental Monitoring : This involves checking the state of the environment on a regular basis over a number of specific criteria, and studying the trends and effects over time.

European Structural Indicators : These were developed following the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 and measure the Sustainable Development objectives targeted in Lisbon.

ISO 14001: ISO 14001 is an international standard for environmental management systems.

Sustainable Development : Sustainable Development is achieved where environmental, social and economic concerns are integrated together in the management of change.

Strategy for Sustainable Development : An organisation has a strategy for Sustainable Development when there is an integrated approach to managing change covering economic, social and environmental issues together, across all the organisation's responsibilities and activities. A strategy for SD can either cover an organisation's own activities, or be applicable also to other activities in the geographical area of a Regional organisation.

Sustainability Indicators : These are specific measurements of economic, social and / or environmental factors or resources that can be used to signal the 'health' of a community (natural and human).

Appendix C: List of the Regions that Responded.

Austria	Kärnten (Carinthia) Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) Oberösterreich (Upper Austria) Wien (Vienna)
Belgium	Wallonie (Wallonia)
Denmark	Aarhus Nordjylland (North Jutland) Ringkjöbing Vejle
Germany	Baden-Württemberg Bayern (Bavaria) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Nordrhein-Westfalen (North Rhine Westphalia) Rhineland-Pfalz Saarland Schleswig-Holstein Thüringen
Ireland	Mid-West Region South-East Region*
Italy	Campania Emilia-Romagna Liguria Lombardia (Lombardy) Marche Piemonte* (Piedmont*) Toscana (Tuscany)
The Netherlands	Fryslan Groningen Limburg Zuid-Holland (South Holland) Utrecht Zeeland
Spain	Andalucia Aragon Catalonia* Euskadi (Basque Country) Galicia
Sweden	Dalarna Jämtland Örebro Östergötland Skåne Stockholm Västra Götaland
United Kingdom	Scotland

* Late submissions, not included in all statistical information.

Appendix D: Useful Websites.

This is a representative list of interesting and useful (English language) websites, that will hopefully encourage Regions to compare established work and experience on sustainability issues, and encourage more Regions to publicise their own work and results.

Links from the ENCORE website to appropriate Regional websites can be set up to assist other Regions obtain easy access to comparative information, to learn about other Regions' established practices.

USEFUL WEB-SITES on SUSTAINABILITY (in English)

Web-site address	Authority	Subject areas covered
www.rete.toscana.it/sett/pta/english/publications.htm	Tuscany	Environmental and Sustainability work in Tuscany
www.aaa.dk/miljo	Aarhus	Environmental Management
		Environmental Policy for Aarhus
		Procurement Policy
http://environnement.wallonie.be/eew/tbe_synthese_val.asp?lge=en	Wallonia	State of the Environment Report 2002
www.ingurumena.net/English/Inicio.htm	Basque Country	General site on Sustainability
www.ingurumena.net/English/Datos/Indicadores/Index.htm	Basque Country	Environmental Indicators
www.ingurumena.net/English/Doc/Estrategia/Index.htm	Basque Country	Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development
www.vgregion.se/miljo/miljo/sidor/in_english.cfm	Vastra Gotaland	Environmental Strategy for Region
		Internal Environmental Policy
		Guide to Sustainable Businesses
www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ERADEN/SCU/00017108/home.aspx	Scotland	Scottish Sustainable Development site
www.miljo.skane.se/eng/start/english.htm	Skane	Environment link for Skane
http://www.svenskamiljonatet.se/miljonat/english/index.htm	Sweden	Swedish Environment site
www.greennetwork.dk/page61.asp	Denmark	Greening Businesses Network

Web-site address	Authority	Subject areas covered
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/index_en.htm	Europe	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/index.htm	Europe	Eco-labelling site
http://www.eu-environment-awards.org/environment_awards.asp	Europe	European Awards for the Environment
http://eea.eu.int/	Europe	European Environment Agency
http://www3.iclei.org/egpis/ekeypage.htm	Europe	European Good Practice Information Service
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/index_en.htm	Europe	Europa, Environment site
http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/	Europe	Multilingual environmental glossary