



# Information Programme

## Sharing knowledge about the CEE environment

### MISSION

The mission of the Information Programme of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is to provide access to environmental information and to assist others in improving access to information. The programme concentrates on the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region and promotes cooperation among environmental stakeholders. Through its activities, the programme can raise environmental awareness and facilitate public involvement in decision-making processes — thus encouraging greater environmental responsibility among diverse target groups.

### TARGET GROUPS

The Information Programme serves the needs of environmental stakeholders including NGOs, national governments, local authorities, other international agencies, the media and businesses.

### WHY?

The REC exists to help the citizens of the region solve their environmental problems. We believe that improving access to environmental information and stimulating environmental awareness is the best means to increase public involvement in decision-making processes and greater environmental responsibility. This in turn will contribute to a healthier environment for present and future generations.

### PROJECTS AND SERVICES

Our mission is realised through the following types of projects, which demonstrate the Programme's strengths and diversity.

#### Projects aimed at providing access to information and raising environmental awareness

These include:

- Quarterly environmental magazine, *The Bulletin*;
- Media services, including an environmental tip-sheet for journalists;
- Environmental information resources at <[www.rec.org](http://www.rec.org)>;
- Environmental library with more than 10,000 books, regional environmental reports, pamphlets on legislation, videos and other publications in English; and
- Rapid response question-and-answer environmental information referral services.



## Projects aimed at promoting cooperation among environmental stakeholders

We publish a range of databases and directories in print and electronic format. These include:

- *NGO Directory*, a guide to more than 3000 environmental NGOs in CEE;
- *Local Government Database*, including 600 local governments in EU accession countries;
- *Media Source Directory* of some 1000 environmental experts in the region;
- *Government and Environment Directory*, representing key governmental organisations with environmental responsibility in 15 CEE countries;
- *Directory of Library and Information Centers in CEE*; and
- *Directory of Funding Sources for Environmental NGOs*.

## Projects that help others improve access to information through electronic tools, policy, legislation and services

These include:

- Assisting the Electronic Tools Task Force, a network of environmental professionals with an interest in information and communication technologies, to implement the Aarhus Convention;
- Developing national environmental information systems in South Eastern Europe through experience exchange and technical assistance;
- Establishing a network of environmental information centres for Central and Eastern Europe;
- Contributing to the implementation of the EC's Access to Environmental Information Directive; and "eEurope" action plans
- Fostering NGO information exchange in South Eastern Europe through networking and technology; and
- Participating in the World Summit on the Information Society.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Information Programme team can be reached by calling (36-26) 504-000, sending a fax to (36-26) 311-294, sending e-mail to <info@rec.org> and online at <www.rec.org/REC/Programs/InformationProgram/>.



**en•dan•gered spe•cies** (en dʒn/ˈpɹd spɛʃshɪz), 1. a species at risk of extinction in Central and Eastern Europe because of human activity, changes in climate, changes in predator-prey ratios. 2. **Tyto alba**: commonly known as the barn owl, a medium-sized nocturnal predator with acute hearing, found throughout Europe and valued for its role in keeping rodent populations down. 3. **Czech Union of Nature Protectors Vlasin**: Czech NGO working to protect the barn owl from life-threatening, agricultural pesticides and habitat destruction with the financial support of the Regional Environmental Center.