



Themis Focus

Newsletter

Dear Themis Family,

Welcome to the fourth issue of "THEMIS Focus", the biannual electronic Newsletter of the THEMIS Network, focusing on natural resource management and combating environmental crimes. This issue is a special one. First of all, I am observing the network activities from a distance due to my focus on family duties; secondly, this issue is closing the 2012-2013 activities of the Themis network. We came to an end of a period, but we are also starting afresh.



During the past years, we have been in an intensive communication with all of you, receiving lots of input, help and inspiration from you. I would like to express my appreciation towards all Themis network Focal Points, Colleagues and Partners who contributed to the success of the Themis activities.

We can all agree that the past three years have been very exciting, and fruitful. I do hope that we will continue our common work in the future with special attention to the adequate natural resource management and preserving the natural heritage, for the benefit of the next generations. Apart from the transposed EU legislation and its enforcement, and the institutional development, we must underline the most important value of the Themis network: trust and respect of others and taking responsibility for the future. I am convinced that throughout the years we have built those values between the colleagues and the countries and showed a respectful thinking towards environmental issues.

We have shared nice moments together, strengthened family ties and achieved a common thinking. By all the steps we have taken we were showing a high responsibility as regards the preservation of our natural resources.

Leaving the past, let us take a step and focus on the future and the next steps. Personally speaking, this became a very important issue to me: the next generation. This can mean a lot to all of us: our children, our junior colleagues, the heritage we preserve and pass to the future generations as well a next phase in our work.

As regards the Themis network, this is the moment when we need to think again together and shape the future actions of the Themis network's activities. We need to build on the past results and experiences and concentrate on the next phase and to address the challenges of the next generations. I trust that we will be successful in this exercise, as we respect our roots and past, we trust and pay respect to each other and to the next generations.

Aniko Nemeth (On behalf of the THEMIS Secretariat)

themis
NETWORK

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NETWORKING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND NESTS

By B. Mesquita

The training number 4, under the cluster 3 of the 2012-2013 work plan of the Themis Network, took place in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on the 8th and 9th of October, 2013. The training was organized in close cooperation with INTERPOL and INECE.

The main objective of was to serve as a forum to strengthen internal dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to improve coordination and cooperation internally. In addition, it also sought to provide the opportunity to cement ties between experts of the entities and central government.

In the preparation of the tailor made programme, the organizing team took into consideration the challenge that political fragmentation presents to Bosnia and Herzegovina. With up to four administrative levels (state, entity, cantonal, municipal), environmental administration and regulatory control systems are very complex and in many cases duplicate one another.

The participants were thus introduced to INTERPOL's methodology of the National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs) and to examples, both successful and unsuccessful, of previous experiences with its implementation, including in neighboring Croatia. Ms. Anita Pokrovac Patekar, from the Directorate for Inspection, Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, gave detailed and relevant information of every major step taken by Croatia and the main lessons learnt in the process.

While some environmental crime issues can be addressed by a single agency, in most cases an effective response requires the knowledge and expertise of multiple agencies working together. One of the key ideas stressed by the INTERPOL speakers was that the key function of a NEST is to connect all the relevant stakeholders for environmental law enforcement within a country and to develop coordinated enforcement efforts, thus improving the performance of environmental legislation.

The main outcomes of the training were the identification of environmental crime priori-

ties in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in brief: illegal logging, permitting issues, illegal hunting, industrial pollution); a general agreement that an internal network for environmental enforcers is needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and that the two days training was an occasion for environmental enforcers, police, prosecutors and policy makers to meet and establish a first informal contact that crosses internal borders. The discussions also identified major obstacles and opportunities present for a NEST in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A detailed account of the discussions can be found in the event report.

The Secretariat took some follow up actions after the meeting in order to enhance its impact. Namely, a meeting was organized, in November, with the Themis Network stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the focal points, the entities and the state) November, in order to capitalize on the momentum gained in the country and to enhance the positive impacts of Themis. As a consequence, Themis received the official support of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition, the event report, together with the list of participants, was translated into the local languages and disseminated across the relevant institutions so that the meeting outcomes can be known and that the seed for a national network is laid in the change of contacts between entity and state level experts.

Finally, given the excellent cooperation with INTERPOL, the Themis Secretariat and INTERPOL decided to organize a study tour, to take place in January 2014, to the INTERPOL's headquarters. The study tour is aimed to enlarge the scope of discussion about the NESTs to the whole region and to show case what INTERPOL can do to help the countries.

The Secretariat would like to express its gratitude for the contributions of Mr. Cees van Duijn, Ms. Emily Nash (INTERPOL) and Mr. Jo Gerardu (INECE), whose contributions were essential to make the training a success. For more information visit: http://themis.rec.org/activities/environmental_crime/networking_for_enforcement_and_nests

“While some environmental crime issues can be addressed by a single agency, in most cases an effective response requires the knowledge and expertise of multiple agencies working together.”

SYNERGIES WITH PARTNERS

By B. Mesquita

In the June to December, 2013, Semester, the Themis Network Secretariat continued to work on its outreach and international cooperation and integration. The Themis Network members strongly believe that, in order to better achieve its goals, it must continuously integrate, as much as possible, with other similar networks and projects, in the region and in Europe, to ensure that positive outcomes are reinforced and sustainable. In the period in question, the main initiatives were the entry into contact with the EnviCrimeNet, ILECU and BIRN. The Themis Network also participated in the Environmental Enforcement Networks Conference, where all the major European environmental networks were present.

3RD ANNUAL ENVICRIMENET MEETING

EnviCrimeNet is an environmental crime informal network for the enforcement and criminal justice agencies of Europe engaged in the fight against environmental crime. The participants exchange information, gain further insight into the nature and extent of environmental crime in Europe and exchange best practices.

The 3rd annual EnviCrimeNet meeting took place in The Hague (Europol headquarters) on the 13th and 14th of November, 2014. The meeting was attended by representatives from within and outside the European Union. There were also representatives of Eurojust (network Officers of Justice), Aquapol, Railpol, Tispol, DG Police V&J, Interpol (Cees van Duijn) and the European Commission (DG Home and DG Environment). Some of the highlighted presentations this year were delivered by Saskia Post on consumer product safety-IOD on Counterfeit Pesticides, by Andreas Windolph (Federal Criminal Police Office, Wiesbaden, Germany) on Waste Trafficking Germany and Daan van Uhm (Utrecht University) on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife.

The Europol Threat Assessment 2013 on Environmental Crime in the EU was given to the 48 delegates attending the meeting. They discussed data gathering by national organizations, on the various forms of environmental crime in Europe, in order to create a European threat as-

essment in the context of a wider European Intelligence Agenda. The participants committed to search for the right data sources that can be used for further work.

The Themis Network, recognizing the Europe wide importance of EnviCrimeNet, was represented by a member of the Secretariat and it supported the participation of the Themis countries Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia. The reports of each country can be found in the Themis website (protected area).

For more information visit: envicrimenet.com & http://themis.rec.org/activities/part-ner_events/3rd_annual_envicrimenet_meeting

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS - 2013 CONFERENCE

In cooperation with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the Flemish High Council of Environmental Enforcement (VHRM) organized an international conference on Environmental Enforcement Networks: Concepts, Implementation and Effectiveness. The conference, which took place in Brussels on the 13th and 14th of November, 2013, explored in depth the potential advantages and challenges of environmental compliance and enforcement networks (formal as well as informal). It assessed criteria for determining a network's effectiveness from a theoretical perspective and examined the practical cases where networks have delivered measurable compliance and enforcement benefits in practice.

The Themis Secretariat was represented in the conference to promote the visibility of Themis activities and its outputs. In this occasion, contacts with the IMPEL board representative were reinforced and the Themis Secretariat was invited to attend IMPEL's General Assembly to take place later, in December 2013. The Themis Secretariat also contributed with a paper to the conference proceedings paper on its lessons learnt during the last 3 years of operation. It is expected that the paper will be integral part of the conference's final publication. In the meantime the paper can be accessed in the Themis

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“There is a necessity to evaluate (networks’) effectiveness through indicators. Their informality can be powerful, but also a weakness. Its potentials include maximizing benefits, see change in practice and value being applied, access to expertise, as well as collective power of partnering.”

Library: <http://themis.rec.org/library/documents/37>

Some of the conference’s main findings were that networks have been around for only 20 years. There is a necessity to evaluate their effectiveness through indicators. Their informality can be powerful, but also a weakness. Its potentials include maximizing benefits, see change in practice and value being applied, access to expertise, as well as collective power of partnering. They work because big issues bind us together and everyone is a peer. The challenges of networks include complex and dense environmental regulation, cultural differences, cost cuts, reduction of resources that do not match the complexity of the issue and added expectations of the communities, notably demands for transparency and accountability. In addition, it is difficult to make accepted networking as part of the daily job, so it is necessary to discuss with supervisors to present added value of networks.

For more information visit:

http://themis.rec.org/activities/partner_events/environmental_enforcement_networks 2013 conference & <http://www.vhrm.be/conference/environmental-enforcement-networks-2013>

ILECU AND BIRN

ILECU stands for International Law Enforcement Coordination Units. The Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service, through its project unit, is currently supporting an ILECU network in the South East European region (SEE).

ILECU’s goals are to network the agencies responsible for countering international crime, including prosecutors, customs and criminal border police and to build trust between the law enforcement agencies of different countries, so as to enable evidence and information gathered in one country/region to be used for prosecution in another. The ILECU project focuses on regional cooperation within the law enforcement process between the ILECU network and other relevant institutions and initiatives to strengthen the fight against organised crime and improve quality standards in the region.

Themis and ILECU can work together, in the

future, to bring to your work the environmental dimension, which is nowadays one of the most profitable forms of organized crime globally. In particular the Themis activities can benefit from the ILECU contacts and it can assist in the strengthening of cooperation between police forces and environmental inspectorates to prevent, investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.

The Themis Secretariat has invited the ILECU network managers, the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service, through its project unit, to sit down and discuss opportunities to integrate some aspects of both networks’ work. Further information about the issue will be made available in the future.

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), implements multi-annual media development programmes across the Balkans, designs and controls the implementation of commercial activities, works on capacity-building of the network as a whole. BIRN is currently preparing a project that will address the level of openness and transparency of public institutions in the target countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Moldova); will establish a free, user-friendly, searchable online database of public documents; will train and empower journalists in the target countries to effectively use investigative skills, research, and report and further tackle issues of public interest; and will implement five investigative regional projects, including one on environmental issues.

The Themis Network mission is thus complementary to BIRN’s own mission, including the promotion of the rule of law and accountability and transparency in the context of EU integration. This provides a great opportunity to share information and access to environmental practitioners across the region between both networks and to reinforce environmental good governance.

The Themis Secretariat has invited BIRN to sit down and discuss opportunities to integrate some aspects of both networks’ work. Further information about the issue will be made available in the future. For more information visit: <http://birn.eu.com/en/page/home>.

ONGOING COOPERATION WITH IMPEL

By B. Mesquita and C. Monnier

In the second semester of 2014, Themis continued to work closely with IMPEL and to build synergies between IMPEL's projects and Themis own outputs.

11TH IMPEL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the highest authority within the IMPEL Association. The General Assembly determines the policy of the association and decides on the budget and the working programmes. The Assembly is also the body which approves project proposals and final project reports. A meeting of the General Assembly is co-chaired by the National IMPEL Coordinator or the National IMPEL Representative of the country where the meeting is hosted and the Chair of the Board. The General Assembly strives to take decisions on the basis of consensus.

The 11th General Assembly of IMPEL gathered this year with the main objectives: 1) Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the current IMPEL governance and develop a strategic vision for the future, 2) Review and approve the projects implement in 2013 and its results, and review and selection of which projects would be funded and implemented under IMPEL for 2014, 3) Discuss and approve the 2014 budget.

The IMPEL Board, through John Seager, presented a vision of a new governance structure for IMPEL, especially regarding how the network chooses and implements its projects. The vision comes after discussions with the EC regarding the future work of IMPEL. The main goals, according to the Board, are to continue to be flexible, to respond to the countries needs, to have an effective communication and to prioritize projects using the concept of "implementation gaps" and countries' needs. In order to achieve that the board proposed to abolish the clusters and replace them with a unified structure, under a single management group, with verified criteria for project selection and budget allocation. The GA discussed the proposal in length, with countries raising the question of ownership of the network, possible expansion to green-blue issues, and pointing out the lack of detail of the board's proposal. Agreement was reached to form a work-

ing group that will draft a first concrete outline of the new proposed governance structure.

The results of an external evaluation report of IMPEL's work was presented and its findings discussed. Some of the major points supported by the GA were:

- The Board should visit each country to have meetings with the relevant hierarchies and to explain the value of the network
- The number of yearly projects should be reduced so that each project can have a higher budget and the opportunity to have a bigger impact
- There should be a communication policy on the project outputs and how they are used to increase network visibility

The national coordinators agreed that IMPEL project reports should have summarized project sheets with the most relevant results in order to help disseminate the network's outputs. They also considered that, for the future, the coordinators should help to gather more information on countries' priorities to guide IMPEL's activities. More influence should be wielded over each coordinator's hierarchy to reinforce IMPEL's position in each country.

Regarding IMPEL's projects for 2014, it was agreed to fund 16 projects in 2014 (out of 25 possible), with a further 3 projects on a waiting list. It is expected that the budget revision of the 16 chosen projects will free enough budget to allow financing of the 3 projects in the waiting list.

The Themis Secretariat was represented in the meeting and contributed to the discussions on the future of IMPEL. It was also stated that Themis is one of IMPEL's partners in the South East European (SEE) region and that Themis will keep cooperating to assist IMPEL in its projects and to disseminate its results in the SEE region.

For more information visit:

<http://themis.rec.org/activities/>

"The main goals (of IMPEL), according to the Board, are to continue to be flexible, to respond to the countries needs, to have an effective communication and to prioritize projects using the concept of "implementation gaps" and countries' needs."

“Themis actively contributed to the BINCC project by engaging the Themis countries in the survey made by the project team of BINCC of which resulted a gap analysis of the capacities of European countries’ institutions to implement the full extent of nature conservation laws.”

[partner events/impel 11th general assembly](#)

IMPEL CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Malta hosted a Conference on Implementation and Enforcement of environmental legislation entitled "Working together to improve and innovate", which took place on October 1-4, 2013, and was jointly organised by the European Commission, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). The conference dealt with the implementation and enforcement of European environmental policy and legislation in practice and was therefore of special interest for experts, officials and practitioners in the field of transposition, implementation, application (e.g. permitting), inspection and enforcement of European environmental legislation, working for national, regional and local authorities. It is recognized that improving communication and coordination between these different actors is very important in overcoming barriers. Apart from members of the IMPEL network itself, Malta hosted more than 200 participants from 34 countries in Europe, and Australia, the European Commission, industry, environmental NGOs and partner enforcement networks.

Themis network was represented at the Conference by its Secretariat and Focal Points from Albania, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. They also attended parallel workshops for Building up IMPEL nature conservation capacities (BINCC) and Eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds (IKB) projects. Reports by the Themis participants can be found in the protected area of the Themis website. The Secretariat report is public.

Themis actively contributed to the BINCC project by engaging the Themis countries

in the survey made by the project team of BINCC of which resulted a gap analysis of the capacities of European countries’ institutions to implement the full extent of nature conservation laws, in particular those obligations deriving from the Birds and Habitats Directives. More information is available in IMPEL’s project webpage: <http://impel.eu/projects/building-up-impel-nature-conservation-capacities/>.

During the general discussions, the role of networks was re-affirmed as allowing better sharing of experience and knowledge, developing best practice and capacity building, and therefore contributing to more effective implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation. The current implementation gap in Europe was recognized, together with the prerequisite to secure the necessary resources to achieve a better environment, and the need for more effort to be put into streamlining and simplifying regulatory requirements towards better compliance with environmental law was highlighted. Improving coordination between different actors, such as practitioners, authorities and networks, was also seen as a clear priority.

In this framework, it was recommended to seek opportunities for closer and more effective collaboration between networks across Europe. Thus, the Conference and the project workshops were the occasion to promote the Themis network as partner or facilitator of IMPEL projects in the SEE region, and to reinforce the cooperation between the two networks started with secretariats’ coordination and the presence of IMPEL secretary at a previous Themis event.

For more information visit: http://themis.rec.org/activities/partner_events/impel-conference-on-implementation-and-enforcement-of-environmental-legislation & <http://environmentconference.mepa.org.mt/>

THEMIS EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

By B. Mesquita

FINDINGS

The ex-post evaluation was commissioned by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (“REC”), as implementing partner and the project Secretariat of the project: “Promoting regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe via networking with the authorities responsible for the environment and justice sectors (Themis Network)”, Contract no. 8284-00/2011, covering the period 2012-2013. The purpose of the ex-post evaluation was to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and partnership strengthening of the project, linked to benchmarks, targets and indicators identified during the planning phase.

Thirty one persons, consisting of the Network Focal Points (NFPs), ADA, the Themis Secretariat, selected project partners and two persons from the REC country offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania took part in interviews. The results of this consultation round has mainly served as reinforcing or complementing certain data and conclusions made on the basis of the quantitative research as well as to provide valuable input to the formulation of lessons learnt and recommendations.

The project has met the needs in the region and it has formed part of an overall development process in the field of capacity building and legislative implementation support in the nature resource and forestry sectors, which is partly driven by the EU accession process (ECRAN being another important instrument for assisting in implementation of environmental acquis) and building upon the structures and networks laid down by BERCEN, ECENA, and the ENVSEC.

Some of the successes worth highlighting

include high participation numbers in all of the trainings and workshops, an effective combination of regional, sub-regional and national trainings, effective cooperation with the project partners who brought in valuable and practically applicable knowledge. The project has ensured foundations of a regional network that will carry on work after project expiry and which lays the foundations for a more in-depth second phase, which could extend to structural issues and priorities at national and local level. The regional cooperation aspect has been one of the main success stories with all of the project partners pledging their involvement in future actions in the beneficiary regions. The project has opened up communication channels that did not exist before. Another important aspect is the interest in the beneficiary region in the practices and tools presented in the trainings and some of these (such as train the trainer programme and NESTs) are slowly put into place. Furthermore, the project realized a high female participation among participants and trainers. Finally, there are signs of concrete sustainability factors. Examples of this include the integration of the Themis objectives in the Kosovo Environmental Ministry’s work programme for 2014, the growing number of environmental crime cases before Kosovo courts, the significant number of inspectors trained in Macedonia and the consensus among the beneficiary countries that a second phase of the Themis is needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Themis filled an important role in supplementing other projects focusing on the implementation of EU environmental acquis. Thus, a follow-up phase could to an ever greater degree use the EU

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accession process even more actively to ensure political will and more sustainable results. While the Themis Network should be strengthened at regional level, it must ensure that actions and their results correspond to the individual needs and resources of the individual beneficiary countries and that the network is promoted and made operational at national and local levels. This will increase its relevance also for national and local actors.

It is recommended to also in the future provide a strong management support to coordinate, steer and provide technical, logistical and organizational aspects. It is recommended to involve REC Country Offices and possibly also the donor organization’s local offices/agents to provide specific targeted assistance. This will also enhance the replication of effects at deeper national and local levels.

To ensure high effectiveness, it is recommended to maintain the intensity of trainings and workshops, comprising of a mix of regional and national trainings. The effectiveness and the contribution to sustainable capacity building are further enhanced if the trainings and main project publications and outputs are provided in local languages. Regarding the dissemination of guidance, best practices and various tools and methodologies, it is recommended to continue to tap on the experiences from relatively new EU Member States, which have or have had a similar contextual situation.

It is recommended to take certain

measures to secure even higher levels of project ownership and support from decision-makers and experts alike for the project and to encourage the adoption of endorsing measures including uptake of Themis objectives and actions in political and strategic plans and programmes. In addition, political will and project ownership could be secured through a more formalized manner, which might comprise a written declaration of commitment at national level or a common memorandum of understanding from some higher level political meeting.

It is recommended that all parties involved in the project (e.g. the Themis Secretariat, the donor organization, the beneficiary organizations and project partners) try to identify synergies and links with other relevant programmes and projects in the beneficiary region. Although such links and cooperation already exist, this element could be reinforced.

FOLLOW UP

The Themis Network Focal points have been asked to comment on the full evaluation report. Their comments and the report findings will be taken into consideration when planning and deciding on the Network’s next multiannual work plan (2014-2016).

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COUNTRY UPDATES

ALBANIA

By Enis Tela

Albanian progress report 2013

The 2013 progress report for Albania, in its chapter 27 conclusions, states that: “There has been little progress in the fields of environment and climate change. Alignment with the acquis has progressed but further efforts are urgently needed to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of legislation. Resources remain limited and substantial investments are needed. Public consultation on public investments and participation in legislative initiatives need to be fostered. Substantial efforts and political will are required to develop a more strategic approach for the country and to strengthen administrative capacity and interinstitutional cooperation. Preparations in the fields of the environment and climate change are at an early stage.”

On Environmental Inspections

Referring to the implementation No. 10433, dated 16.06.2011, “On inspections in the Republic of Albania” the Council of Ministers has approved the decision No. 223, dated 13.03.2013 “On the organization and functioning of the State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry, Water and Fisheries” (SIEFWF). For a lot of reasons this decision was not implemented. Actually with the new changes made by government in the structure of line ministries where Fishery Inspectorate is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration the above decision is changed and is waiting for approval by Council of Ministers. As a principal objective to be fulfilled till March 2014 is to address to the Ministry

of Justice the acquirement of the legislative initiative to amend the V chapter of the Penal Code, implementing EC Directive 2008/99 “Protecting the environment through criminal law”.

Capacity building for environmental inspections

On august 2013 Central Inspectorate for three pilot Inspection Units of Tirana, Durres and Elbasan of the Environmental Inspectorate has organized and developed “e-inspection” training program. Environmental inspectors of the 12 Inspection Units of Environmental Inspectorate will be equipped with lap tops with e-inspection software from Central Inspectorate. Also, each Unit at 12 Environmental Regional Agencies have in electronic format A and B environmental permits and are trained from SELEA Project to use this program. The Ministry of Finance is preparing procurement procedures for cars, computers, and other equipments for inspectors. Trainings will continue organized from SELEA Project, RENA/ECRAN and one training has to be organized by REC Albania, under the Themis Network, on the topic of environmental Crimes in 2014.

MONTENEGRO

By Jovana Žarić

Legal framework

The Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro is conceived as an operative implementation authority of the Law on nature protection. In 2013, Montenegro was in the process of preparing or finalizing a set of new laws, namely:

- Amendments to the Law on nature

“Environmental inspectors of the 12 Inspection Units of Environmental Inspectorate (Albania) will be equipped with lap-tops with inspection software from the Central Inspectorate.”

“The main goal of the training (in Montenegro) is better understanding of SEA and EIA procedures for plans, programmes, projects in the Forestry Sector.”

protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, No 62/13 – 31.12.2013.);

- Amendments to the Law on environmental impact assessment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, No 27/13 - 11.06.2013.);
- Amendments to the Law on criminal code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, No 59/13 - 06.12.2013.);
- Draft Law on environmental liability with regard to environmental damage - submitted to the Parliament;
- Draft Law on national parks - submitted to the Parliament.

Themis National training in Montenegro

The Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro (MEPA) will organize National training on „Sustainable Forest Management“ (15th - 17th January, Budva), in cooperation with Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture (MRDA), under the Themis Network (REC Budapest) - with technical support of REC - Office Montenegro, financed by Austrian Development Cooperation.

The main goal of the training is better understanding of SEA and EIA procedures for plans, programmes, projects in the Forestry Sector.

During the first day, Deputy Minister (MRDA) will present the National Forest Strategy as a general scope of the training. In addition, the Plans for for-

est development on Local level will be presented. After the presentation of basic strategy/plans aspects, it will be provided a review of main provisions of Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment - for plans/programmes and Law on Environmental Impact Assessment for projects in Forestry Sector.

The training sessions will contain case studies – EU experience (Slovenia) and Experience in the Balkan region (Serbia) about Forest development plans on Local level with SEA (standards, best practice, lessons learned) and interaction with protected areas/National Parks – practice and barriers).

Having in mind future plans of the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture on preparation of Forest development plans for Municipalities, the last day will be devoted to the Pilot project for the Municipality Mojkovac, where representatives of the Forest Administration will present the project and concrete recommendations. The guidelines for the preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment Reports will be highlighted by the MEPA. A final presentation will provide general provisions of Draft Law on environmental liability with regard to environmental damage. The event will be seeking to achieve concrete outcomes.

MACEDONIA

By Darko Blinkov and Zoran Dimovski

Themis National training in Macedonia

The Themis National training is Macedonia will be on Environmental Crime, Forest and Natural Resources Management. The workshop will be held in Strumica,

February 26-28 and it will be a good base for the establishment of a Macedonian NEST. The expected participants will be:

- Environmental and Nature protection Inspectors,
- Forest and Hunting Inspectors,
- Forest Police,
- Protection and Rescue Inspectors,
- Customs,
- Police-Interpol Unit,
- Judges,
- Prosecutors,
- Professors from the Faculty of Security and Faculty of Forestry,
- Academy for Judges and Prosecutors,
- Independent Environmental experts,
- Representatives from Sectors of Nature and Sector of Forestry,
- PE Macedonian Forests,
- Sector of EU from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

Legislation

In the meantime, the Macedonian administration is working on new legislation to accomplish the transposition of EU Directives in Macedonian legislation. For the first time, the draft Law on Soil was prepared (still in governmental procedure), and changes were done to the

- Law on Environment,
- Law on Nature Protection,
- Law on Forests,
- Law on Inspection supervision and
- Many other regulations.

Other activities and projects

From the second 2014 semester, Macedonia will start two IPA projects for the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation with the focus on IPPC, Water and Air. Environmental inspection on both levels will be part of the project, with study tours, pilot inspections, preparing guidelines for operators, and guidelines for the environmental, nature protection and water supply inspections. Those projects will also provide technical equipment. The total amount for both projects and equipment will be three million euros. Finally, the Macedonian environmental inspectors will participate on the cross cutting group of the ECRAN Network, which started operations since December 2013 and represents the continuation from the previous RENA Network.

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“The Themis National training is Macedonia will be on Environmental Crime, Forest and Natural Resources Management. The workshop will (...) be a good base for the establishment of a Macedonian NEST. .”

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

For more information contact the Themis Secretariat or visit themis.rec.org. The information below is indicative only. The final dates may change at a later stage.

January	Study Tour (INTERPOL), Lyon, France
Jan-Feb	Themis National Trainings in all countries
March	Conference—Impacts of Themis, <i>venue tbd</i>
March	Executive Committee Meeting, <i>venue tbd</i>
March 31st	Closure of the 2012-2013 Themis work programme

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SECRETARIAT—THE REC



REC

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues. The REC fulfills this mission by

promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

The REC actively participates in key global, regional and local processes and contributes to environmental and sustainability solutions within and beyond its country office network, transferring transitional knowledge and experience to countries and regions.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter with over 30 signatories. The REC has an office network in 17 countries.

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.