

Annual Report 1992



**The Regional
Environmental Center**
for Central and Eastern Europe



Our Mission in Central and Eastern Europe

Recognizing that local and regional actions are essential to resolving global environmental problems, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) was established in June 1990. Its mission is to address the host of pressing environmental problems, common throughout the region, through the development of a civic society.

Thus, responding to growing private and public concern for the state of the environment in the region, the Center:

- promotes interaction and cooperation among diverse environmental groups and interests in the region;
- acts as a catalyst for the support of organizations and individuals that develop or implement solutions to environmental problems in the region; and
- builds public participation in addressing environmental issues.

Founded by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary, the REC currently enjoys the support of over fifteen registrant countries. (See page 34 for a listing of sponsors and beneficiaries.) It presently serves the geographic region defined as Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. It has been in operation since September 1990 and serves the following constituencies:

- non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- national governments;
- local and municipal governments;
- academic and scientific institutions;
- and businesses,

with a special emphasis on supporting grass-roots environmental movements.

The Center has at its disposal a dedicated staff that combines a thorough knowledge of the region with Western expertise and a technically well-equipped office. This makes it an excellent center of communications and information services, and puts the Center in a position to influence policy-making in the region. Because of its regional structure and independent nature, the Center can work as an effective catalyst to promote transboundary and international cooperation on issues affecting the environment.

The Center is based in Budapest, and has established four local offices in Bratislava, Bucharest, Sofia and Warsaw.



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
for Central and Eastern Europe

1992 Annual Report

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"We believe that there is a clear and urgent need for the help that the Centre can provide throughout the region. We also believe that the issue is not whether this help is required but how and in what form that it should be provided."

- PA Consulting Group, August 1992



The Center is located in Budapest Hungary

PREFACE

As this is the Annual Report for 1992, only those developments which took place in 1992 are covered here in detail. However, we would like to inform you, following the development of a strategic plan, which was finalized at the April 1, 1993 meeting of the Board of Directors, an implementation plan was crafted. At print time, the changes at the REC include: a restructured Board of Directors; a new Executive Director; and a new organizational structure. To learn more about these changes, please consult the Spring and Summer 1993 issues of the Information Bulletin.

1992 Board of Trustees

Robert De Bauw · Chief Adviser, DG-XVII, Commission of the European Communities · Belgium

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Judit Vásárhelyi · Director, Independent Ecological Center · Hungary

Sofia Vujanac-Borovnica · Undersecretary for Environment, Federal Ministry of Economic Development · Yugoslavia

**** Served on the Board until September 1992 All other Board members served through December 31, 1992.**

Sofia Vujanac Borovnica, who had selflessly served the Center as a member of the Board during its first two years, died in May of 1993. Ms. Borovnica was an energetic contributor to our efforts and a wonderful asset for the region. The Center's staff and Board wishes to express its sorrow at such a loss.

Chairman's Letter

In 1992 the Center concluded its second year of operations. All over Central and Eastern Europe political, economic and social forces continued to overshadow other needs, including environmental rehabilitation. Environmental ministries have watched as their budgets hemorrhaged away. At the other end of the spectrum, grass-roots support of strong environmental measures has been eroded, particularly with the emergence of issues such as mass unemployment, political instability and widespread poverty. The challenge facing the Region is monumental: to find solutions to environmental problems that are consistent with economic development and poverty alleviation. These problems cannot be solved simply by technological fixes because of the complex intersectoral behavioral factors involved. While many would express the view that the availability of funds, both local and foreign is the main stumbling block, the 1992 experience demonstrates clearly that there are a constellation of factors that limit the mobilization, flow and the capacity to effectively utilize them.

Against this background, in 1992 we remained committed to our original goals promoting further environmentally-sustainable development and increasing environmental awareness in the Region. We continued task force activities, notably on environmental legislation, decided to expand the Center's information/clearinghouse program, and introduced ecology/agriculture earmarked grants to see better the advantages of focusing on a limited number of priority topic areas. The local offices, already operational in Sofia, Bratislava, Bucharest, and Warsaw, were most instrumental in this process, reaching local environmental communities and local authorities.

But we are fully aware that the Center needs to adapt and improve in several areas to move ahead. In 1992 we examined carefully how effective the Center's activities are in reaching their target recipients, how cost-effective are various operations, and how efficient is the Center's organizational and activity restructuring, strategy and management process development, as well as the Center's self-sustainability. We begin reshaping our resources to better support our constituency and we expect to continue that process this coming year.



Director's Message

While 1990 and 1991 were years to develop the programs, create the structure of operations and train the staff in the Center, 1992 was the first year of full gear operation, with a complete staff in place and with Local Offices in four more countries in the region. At the same time, this year also marked the revision of strategy, structure and management of the Center.

The Center has had to develop and deliver its services and programs not only in a highly unfavorable economic and political environment - as the letter of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees points out - but also in a time of enormous ongoing transformations and continuous changes. To meet the challenge these changes represent, the Center, based on its fruitful experience of a year and a half, began a process of strategic overview and planning for the next phase of its development and to ensure its future existence. Delivering full-scale regular services and planning improvements simultaneously - this duality marked almost the entire year of 1992.

Increased expectations

The more the Center performed, the more expectations it met, and the more expectations it generated. The opening of the four local offices in as many countries created a strong demand for creating similar services in countries where we are not yet physically present. The success of the Legal Task Force increased pressure on us to enter into other areas with our own initiatives, especially to provide services for local authorities. The increased grants program generated expectations among all potential constituencies whom we have not yet been able to reach.

Expectations have also been increased among our donors. The early results prompted them to refer more and more contact groups and partners to us, irrespective of our financial and staff limitations. As soon as the Center started to deliver its services and acquire much needed experience-based knowledge, helping Western donors in evaluating the efficiency of aid programs to the region became a constant demand. The Center itself has been subject of a program evaluation in order to review the effectiveness of our activities. The last quarter of 1992 was devoted to find the best solutions to utilize the staff's experience, the observations and reflections of our constituencies and the advice of the program audit in order to design a strategic and implementation plan which will enable us to meet the increased expectations.

Confirmed priorities

The Center's 1992 activity also stressed the importance of our basic operational principles. Keeping both the unfavorable economic and political conditions and the Center's modest financial resources in mind, it seemed to be fully justified to focus our activities on supporting grass-roots organizations. When the Center was established in 1990, one central idea of its purposes was to contribute to the evolution of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Though political democratization in general - mostly in party and parliamentary politics - is progressing well, the emergence and solidification of grass-roots democratic institutions and practices still cries for help. Every assistance that the Center could have provided to environmental NGOs, either financially, through the grants program or technically, through clearinghouse and information services, has helped to realize this general goal of democratization.

Another leading motive, characteristic of all the Center's activities, has been the promotion of public participation in different fields of environmental activities: decision-making, implementation and enforcement. The Center advised other organizations, when requested, on the best way to include grass-roots representatives in numerous events and programs, and organized its own programs to promote such dialogues and to help to train the general public. As a part of this effort, the Center could, in the future, utilize its reputation as a trusted mediator among diverse interests, and co-organize a project to facilitate government-NGO cooperation in the region. This project will yield tangible products in 1993.

Finally, we began in 1992 to organize a deliverable service to make public use of our continuously piling information on environmental issues and activities throughout the region. This is our Information Resources/Clearinghouse Program.

The somewhat more than two years of our activities is still a very short period to develop adequate services in a Region of continuous change in which the Center operates. Flexibility in allocating our resources as well as persistence to our basic commitments are equally important factors for successful, long-term operation.



Peter Hardi
Executive Director

1992: Evaluating our Programs

If 1991 can be characterized as the year the Center pioneered a unique effort, 1992 can be characterized as the year the Center developed a strategic direction for the future. External evaluation and internal soul-searching at the Center resulted in a revitalized organization with a clear mandate and a strong presence in the region.

Consultants Report

Following a decision by the Board of Trustees, PA Consulting Group (see box) was asked to prepare a Program and Activity Audit of the Center. Commissioned by the European Commission, the evaluation of the Center by the consultants was based on dozens of interviews with current and past employees of the Center, members of the Board of Trustees, clients of the Center, and those from the region and from the West familiar with the operation of the Center. The Report notes that there are several problematic background issues, including unrealistic timescales for opening the Center and the complex political history, and, often conflicting political ambitions of the various groups and cultures in the countries of the region.

In their summary, the consultants called for organizational restructuring, strategy development, activity restructuring, management process development, and self-sustainability. Specifically, it addressed these areas with recommendations for "building on the capacity of local people to address their own environmental issues", for approving better value-for-money grants through an earmarked program, and for carrying out a needs analysis of the region. The "Programme and Activity Audit of the Regional Environmental Center" is public information and a copy is available at the Center.

Strategic Development

For the better part of the year, strategic plans were under discussion. After the PA report was finalized, the strategic plans were further developed with an eye toward better positioning the Center as a regionally-orientated and -based organization, with clear products and services, demonstrable effects and transparency of operations. To these ends the Center has taken a number of important steps in 1992.

Outreach Program Establishes Regional Presence

This program helped establish our regional presence. With Offices opened in Bucharest,

Bratislava, Sofia, and Warsaw, we have increased our ability to reach the grass-roots organizations who fulfill an important component of our public participation mission. (More details on page 8)

The Center Initiative: Task Forces

The development of this Center initiative has been a priority in 1992. Our Legal Task Force has been at the forefront of discussion and deliberation on legislative issues for the region. Our Local Authorities Initiative began and has proven to be a valuable exercise. (More details on page 10.)

Clearinghouse Becomes Separate

While the Center has served as a clearinghouse of information to many constituents and supported several information resource projects since its inception, in 1992 this area gained new importance and was separated from the other services of the Center. (More details on page 13)

Grant Program Evaluates Operations

A key component of our assistance to NGOs and others is the financial and managerial assistance offered through our grant program. The evaluation in 1992 by the outside consultants and our own staff will lead to significant changes in 1993. Operational costs of NGOs will be covered by small Local Grants, while a greater portion of the grant monies will be earmarked to specific environmental categories. (More details on page 14.)

PA Consultancy Group

PA Consultancy Group is a leading international management and technology consultancy. The company works with clients in industry, commerce and government to manage complex change and to create business advantage. Located in 20 countries, the 1700 strong consulting staff represents a unique breadth of specialist expertise. PA Consultancy has also provided services to the G-24 Environmental Programme for CEE and to the PHARE environmental programmes.

Outreach to Constituents

"From my point of view, the establishment of outreach offices, including the outreach office in Bratislava, has proved to be the most efficient way to increase the REC's influence in the region and make it really "visible".

However, the offices themselves without good officers would not help much. (The ideal coordinator)....can work hard, creatively and without biases toward any NGO.

Strengthening of responsibility, capacity and flexibility of the Outreach Offices is a move in the right direction....."

- Jarmir Sibl of Slovakia

Meeting the needs of our constituents scattered throughout the region is an enormous challenge for the Center. Grass-roots groups in particular come from widely different backgrounds and are often active in difficult-to-reach areas. Although troublesome, such challenges of communication and accessibility are also an enormous opportunity. Recognizing this, our Board of Directors in September 1991 directed the opening of four outreach offices in Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Slovakia (at that time CSFR). Since their opening in early 1992, these four Outreach Offices (to be called Local Offices in 1993) with their dedicated staff have achieved very positive results. They have been largely credited with establishing our regional presence and will continue to play an important role in bringing us closer to those we serve.

Local grants, local-language publication and other tools will increase the effectiveness of our outreach in 1993. The offices and other outreach activities are expected to be strengthened in 1993.

The offices, which are staffed by one and sometimes two nationals of each country, are able to deliver REC services, help assess the needs of our constituents, improve contacts within the region among NGOs, local and central governments, academia and businesses. Specifically the office coordinators assist NGOs with grant applications, inform the NGOs and others of our successes, distribute information about the Center and gather information about the various groups that visit the office. In mid 1992 the work of the outreach offices was evaluated by REC Budapest. The evaluation has been a great help in determining the areas that need attention and have pointed out the very strong successes of the Outreach Offices.

General Outreach and Public Relations

All of the Outreach Offices were generally successful in this effort, and the results have been a heightened awareness of the Center and its goals. In particular, contacts with grass-roots NGOs have yielded good support for the activities of the Center and its Outreach Offices. It was recognized, however, that more emphasis should be placed on contacting other constituent groups, particularly local authorities. In 1993, this will be addressed.

In addition, from the general outreach activities, the Offices in these capital cities inform the Center in Budapest about the needs of the constituencies, mostly through monthly reports. This has added enormously to the two-way communication that is necessary for our operations.

Distributing Products

It was one of the main tasks of the outreach offices to improve not only the volume but also the quality of grants submitted to the Center. Coordinators in each country have worked closely with grantees, answering questions, clarifying procedures, and bringing a sense of personal commitment to the process. Due to the activities of the offices the number of grants received from the target countries was almost doubled over 1992 (see grant statistics pages 14-15).

The Outreach Offices assisted the clearinghouse/information program of REC Budapest in submitting clearinghouse requests and in trying to respond to clearinghouse/information requests themselves when it was not possible from Budapest.

The Outreach Office staff has also assisted NGOs in publicizing themselves or their ideas in the Information Bulletin, in both the NGO Spotlight section or the Forum section (see inset). By promoting a regional awareness of other groups working on the same issues, the Outreach Offices encourage lines of communication among NGOs and others from all over the region.

"By its actual and future activity, the Romanian Outreach Office is extremely welcome. Such type of offices should be created and supported more and more to increase the efficiency of the REC."

- Ovidiu Oancea of TER-Bucharest, Romania

Outreach in Countries Without Offices

In order to have an adequate outreach in countries without offices, Center representatives frequently travelled through the region, attending conferences and meetings, explaining the REC's services, and assisting NGOs in writing proposals. In addition, the REC Budapest office received many guests from throughout the CEE region. Despite this, it became increasingly clear that contacts with constituents in countries that did not have an Outreach Office were under-served. This is particularly true of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The strategic plans of the Center will strengthen the Offices and build up outreach programs in countries where offices do not exist. The 1993 experience will be favorably shaped by the learning experiences of 1992. The Center's presence in the region is a vital component of all of our strategies, and the Outreach Program is the method for achieving this.

Communicating with our Constituents & Supporters

The region offers unique challenges in communication, both in terms of the physical infrastructure and the richness of the cultural context within which our messages are received. The Outreach Offices were charged with informing our constituents of the programs of the Center. Additionally, the Annual Report of 1991 and the Quarterly Information Bulletin highlighted successes of the Center and allowed for more transparent operations.

The 1991 Annual Report reported on the first year of operations at the Center, detailing finances, highlighting ten projects funded by the Center and providing good transparency of all Center activities.

The PA Consultants report suggested publishing in local languages as a more effective way to reach our intended market, and already in 1993 efforts are under-way to make this a reality.

Information Bulletin

Volume 2, Number 2

March 1993

Information Bulletin

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe



meeting and meetings in the region and cooperation of local citizens in the field of environmental and health protection. The Bulletin is published quarterly in both English and Hungarian. It is available to all interested parties and is published in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center and the Government of Hungary. The Bulletin is published in both English and Hungarian. It is available to all interested parties and is published in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center and the Government of Hungary.

Info Bulletin

Regional Environment

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and THE REC

By: [Name]

The Information Bulletin is a quarterly published by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) to communicate the activities and programs of the REC and provide regular and timely information to grass-roots groups, policy makers and government officials from the East and the West. In 1992, the Information Bulletin communicated to a wide audience, the news about the Center, information about programs, conferences, and projects in the region, and provided a forum for a discussion of issues. Two issues, an Autumn 1992 and Winter 1992/3 were distributed to more than 5,000 readers.

- The Bulletin has the following sections:
 - NGO Spotlight** - a place to talk about an environmental grass-roots non-profit group. This is good exposure for groups who wish to communicate with similar NGOs in the CEE region.
 - Forum** - a place to discuss issues and which welcomes letters from any reader.
 - Clearinghouse** - a place where interesting and relevant items on environmental cooperation, publications, etc detail the latest developments in the region.
 - Conferences** - upcoming conferences, workshops, training sessions
 - REC News** - Reports on our various services, projects, and staff
 - Grants Listing** - grants awarded most recently by the REC to grass-roots, environmental groups.

Center Initiatives: Task Forces

Overview

The Center's mission entails not only supporting existing efforts to solve the environmental problems of the region, but also initiating programs that will assist in solving those problems. This assistance is aimed at facilitating the process of public involvement in environmental decision-making, a goal clearly stated in the Charter of the Center.

To address this, a Task Force Program was conceived in 1991, beginning with a Legal Task Force, and further developed in 1992. A Center initiative, the Task Forces are a means of addressing the commonalities of problems in the region, the shared legacy of 40 years. The objectives of the Task Force Program are to assist the countries of the region to deal with key issues in a cooperative manner, sharing expertise, experience and encouragement, promoting a consensus among diverse interests on a regional and national level, and creating a bridge between western experts and their counterparts in the East. It provides an institutional framework for promoting interaction between the different constituencies of the Center and for strengthening their capacities through public participation.

The Task Force Program maximizes its effectiveness by taking advantage of both the Grants and Clearinghouse Programs, working in tandem with each. With the development of a strategic plan for the Center, it has become increasingly apparent that the task force initiatives of the Center should be strengthened. In 1992, the Legal Task Force, by focussing on assistance in drafting new environmental laws in the region, was the driving force behind a grant project that set an historical precedence. For the first time in modern Hungary, foreign experts and citizens gave testimony to a Parliamentary Committee. (See details in Highlight 1992 on page 34) In addition, the Legal Task Force experts performed a cost benefit analysis of the same draft environmental law - also a first for the region - and published it in English.

Legal Task Force

The Legal Task Force is organized in the form of a series of workshops and working groups which includes representatives of parliaments, governments, academics and NGO experts from throughout the Central and Eastern European region and invited Western NGO and government experts as well. In 1992, the Legal Task Force identified three areas of priority where activities should be focussed: environmental liability and privatization; public participation; and economic instruments. It met three times: in March, July, and September.

Privatization

Privatization working group of the Legal Task Force is identifying options for influencing sectorial legislation in the areas of compliance, rights and obligations during property transfer, confidentiality of information and the right-to-know. Representatives from several countries described the problems that have arisen from the lack of coordination between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry/Agency of Privatization. Privatization was the chief concern of the participants, and it was generally agreed that the privatization laws had not taken into account the environmental impact of the privatization process.

Rather than having ad-hoc solutions to the problems of competing ministries in a government, the Legal Task Force members suggested formalized coordination between the various bodies concerned with privatization and those charged with environmental protection. In Poland, for example, an ad-hoc group has been set up to deal with issues of privatization. A joint unit, made up of members of the two ministries, is trying to introduce the necessary changes.

The scope of privatization in the Central and Eastern European Region is unprecedented. The failure to pay attention to the environment is the result of the lack of coherent legislation and strong pressure for privatization. In some countries of the region, in the absence of legal requirements, legislators feel that tougher environmental standards make it more difficult to find buyers and make sales. Task Force members conclude however, that western investors need environmental certainty and the lack of clear rules might deter them; experts agreed that no privatization should occur without identification of liabilities.

The working group decided to identify options for influencing sectorial legislation in the areas of techniques of compliance and compliance schedule, the problem of rights and obligations during property transfer and the confidentiality of information and the right to know. A set of alternative solutions and policy options can be elaborated based on the various approaches to cleanup, site assessment, indemnification, standards, compliance schedules, which could serve as basis for specific recommendations both for general and local use in the region.

Public Participation:

The development of a strong and effective NGO movement is a precondition of public participation, as NGOs are the vehicles to facilitate public involvement. The Legal Task Force has focussed on this area as well because neither the legislative framework for establishing these rights, nor a strong civic society - to press for real participation rights - exists. Not only new public participation laws, but, fast actions are required in order to provide public involvement in the most burning environmental issues during the transition process (i.e. privatization).

The Task Force evaluated existing legal, political and social mechanisms to increase public participation in environmental decision-making in the region and found that, although there are some structures already in place or planned in some countries, there are no substantial and comprehensive public participation laws. In CEE environmental laws very often serve as a model for public participation because administrative laws do not have provisions for it. Because it is difficult to change such administrative laws, environmental bills have special importance.

This Public Participation working group decided that resources can be best utilized by combining the involvement in the drafting process on the level of national legislation (trying to influence legislators in CEE) and the legal service function (disseminate information, advising, education etc.). Experts will elaborate a chart summarizing principles of public participation, presenting common elements based on existing Western experience which can be used as guiding principles by legislators in CEE countries. At the same time, a manual on public participation for the public to educate them about public participation rights is also to be prepared. In both cases, Western experience with public participation mechanisms will be tempered by the problems, solutions, and constraints found in CEE countries.

Economic Instruments

Initially, many of the Legal Task Force experts believed that the use of market instruments was premature, as a true market does not exist. However, after a short while, they found that, surprisingly, some countries in the region were using even very sophisticated market instruments. For example, in Southern Poland pollution emission rights are being traded.

Additionally, while in most of the countries of the region limited experience on economic instruments exists, many of the new laws under preparation envisage them. At the same time, there is a lack of understanding and expertise in this field, there is no

legal framework in place and it is not clear how such mechanisms would be implemented in the CEE countries. Therefore it is extremely useful to assess available Western experience, to sum up Eastern European experiments and evaluate the shortcomings. The surveys prepared by the Task Force show that incentives to improve the environment failed because they were more nominal than real incentives and they were not enforceable. Analyses were prepared on the experience of the use of market instruments in the United States and on the possible use in CEE.

Cost/Benefit Analysis

In conjunction with the drafting of the environmental law in Hungary (see page 34), a group of economists was commissioned by the Center to prepare a cost benefit analysis of the proposed draft. The conclusion of the study was that its introduction would not endanger the macro economy nor competitiveness. The report recommended an allocation of a sum equal to 2 % of GDP for environmental purposes. This was the first cost/benefit analysis of a draft environmental law in the region and it can serve as a useful model.

As the Legal Task Force has continued to meet and discuss the issues common to the region, important issues have come to the forefront. One important idea is that a new concept of property ownership must be established to enable the enforcement of existing environmental legislation. Additionally, as the laws of the countries are being re-written now, it is important that the new laws adopt the lessons learned in the West within the context of the Eastern European situation. The Legal Task Force, because of its regional orientation and contact with the West, is a vital tool for the countries of CEE.

Other Task Forces

In 1992 a new Center Initiative dealing with Local Authorities was begun. This initiative, as well as the NGO-Government cooperation initiative is detailed on the following page.

Future Direction

The Center has an important role in identifying or presenting alternative views and options; it can facilitate the communication between NGO experts, CEE governments, and other groups. The Task Force Program is expected to become, under the new strategic plans, an even more important pro-active component of the Center's activities.

Local Authorities Initiative

Good environmental policy must be implemented not only by federal governments, but also by local governing bodies. With inspiration from the Oslo Declaration on Environment and Health, the Regional Environmental Center jointly sponsored a "Workshop On Achieving Good Environmental Practice by Local Authorities in Central and Eastern Europe" to promote the dissemination of good environmental practice amongst local authorities in the region. The Center, in its ongoing efforts to support the development of a civic society, has provided organizational support, funds, and expertise for this Local Authorities' initiative.

Adopted at the 30th World Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) in June, the Oslo Declaration of 1991 calls in its section on implementation and follow-up action for the: "Design of programs of education, training and information with a view to extending and developing the expertise and competence of local officials in the fields of environment and health". Similarly, the UN 'Rio Conference in June, 1992 stressed the crucial role local authorities play in building sustainable development.

Within this framework the Institute of Sustainable Development, Poland jointly with the Regional Environmental Center and the International Union of Local Authorities received additional two thirds

funding from the European Commission to organize a workshop. The workshop was held in Pultusk, Poland from October 18-21, 1992, with 28 Central Eastern European experts and 19 Western colleagues. As a result of this workshop, a "Manual of Good Environmental Practice For Local Governments" is to be developed as an awareness raising, institutional development and training tool for local authority officials in the region. This document will seek to cover in a practical way the issues of general interest to all local officials in the region. The primary focus of the manual, which is expected to be completed by May 1994, will be towards municipal action. Additionally, to promote the principles of democratic, transparent administration and citizen participation, it will be available to local environmental organizations.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) as project leader for the manual, has submitted a proposal to the EC Commission for the development of the manual. It is proposed that the Environmental European Secretariat will compile the manual in conjunction with the Central and Eastern European partners and under the sponsorship of the EC Commission, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and the Regional Environmental Center.

NGO - Government Cooperation

In order to promote cooperation between NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe and their governments, the Center in Budapest and the Institut für Europäische Umweltpolitik in Bonn launched an initiative on "Possibilities for Cooperation between NGOs and Governments in Central and Eastern Europe". In Phase I of the project, Western experts and representatives from Central and East European NGOs and governments were asked to prepare country-specific reports on the contemporary situation. In Phase II of the project, the authors of the case studies together with additional NGO representatives were brought together at a working session in Rez, CSFR from 3-5 July, 1992 to analyze their findings and to develop possible strategies for promoting cooperation. Published in a book which includes summaries in each language of the region, these case studies will be disseminated to NGOs.

One basic prerequisite for the participation of NGOs in decision-making, implementation and monitoring is the openness of the political system. In Central and Eastern Europe, both governments and NGOs tend to interpret cooperation as unilateral support of their respective ideas and activities. As a result, bad relationships have fostered a confrontational approach to addressing issues. NGOs complain that they cannot participate substantially

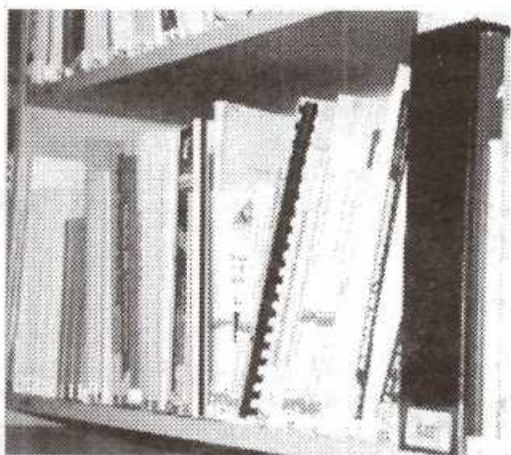
in the decision-making process; they have no real impact and their recommendations are not heeded. Workshop findings included:

- NGO cooperation with the government in one area does not imply the approval of all governmental activities; opposition can be issue-specific.
- The preconditions for public participation are free access to information, participation at all levels in the decision-making, implementation and enforcement processes, and the right to voice dissent and to appeal (sue).
- NGOs have the right to financial support from the government because they play an active role in representing specific public interests and help to make governmental decisions more transparent.
- Legal and economic incentives should be introduced to support the non-profit sector. (i.e. Donations should be tax-deductible and/or special tax preferences should be granted.)

• NGO-government cooperation should be institutionalized in the form of regular meetings, round tables, platforms and advisory boards, etc.

In order to further NGO-government cooperation, the Center is ready to support initiatives for NGO-government cooperation on national levels. It also welcomes all ideas, suggestions, and opinions.

Providing Information: Clearinghouse



The Center receives books and reports from a surprising variety of sources.

In 1992, the Clearinghouse program was formally established. Although the Clearinghouse activities had been carried out since the inception of the Center, the need for a separate functional area for the Information Resources/Clearinghouse (IR/CH) became clear from the evaluation and strategic development process. According to the PA Consulting Group, "A significant number of grants have gone towards developing information networks and clearinghouse-related activities which the Center could have better coordinated and benefited from if carried out internally."

Thus, in September 1992, the Board of Trustees agreed to establish the Information Resources and Clearinghouse (IR/CH) Program to fulfill the Center's mission as a "source of information and assistance to citizens of the region" (REC Charter). The program began with an organization of in-house resources of the Center. Materials collected for two years have now been catalogued so that these resources will be available to our constituents.

Because of its regional orientation, geographic presence, links to other organizations, and mission, the Center is uniquely situated to provide access to information and to assist in forging cooperation and forming networks. This has been demonstrated by the amount of interest in the Center as a focal point for the exchange of information; thousands of people, from scientists to grass-roots activists have contacted our center. As a result, over 8,000 entries have been made to our contact database. Since the opening of the REC, thousands from throughout the region and beyond have visited or contacted the REC, leaving behind a wealth of donated reports, studies, software packages, and more. Since September, the task has been to organize all of these

resources and identify services that can be derived from this wealth of information. The main thrust of the program in 1992 was the offering of existing resources in a more accessible and useful manner. The library of reference materials was initiated and organized.

While the results of the program are difficult to quantify, an important service is being provided. For one request, we provided the organizer of the annual symposium on "Environmental and Occupational Health during Societal Transition in Central and Eastern Europe" with contacts of NGOs working on health issues in the region. The contacts came from the Center's data bases, contacts, and Outreach Offices. In another instance, we provided a primary school in Pécs (southern Hungary) with educational materials, directed them to important Hungarian educational contacts, and connected them to people developing environmental educational materials for primary schools in Hungary. Another example: When two different international meetings for environmental journalists asked for help in identifying participants from Central and Eastern Europe, we responded by augmenting our existing lists by contacting journalism associations and organizations in the region. The result is a listing of environmental journalists in Central and Eastern European countries. Eventually, the IR/CH Program will provide environmental data not readily available from other resources in the region, identify specific resources that can meet information needs, and promote regional and international co-operation between environmental constituents. The strategic plans also recognize this program as an important component of the Center's overall strategies.

"Thank you for sending us the EHA database. It has proved very useful for both the international project and international conference..."

- Kerry Massie, Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

Grants Program

In 1991 and again in 1992, the Grants program was a large component of the Center's efforts to assist the people of the region in dealing with the legacy of an ill-protected environment. Over 80 groups from all over the region were given financial support for a wide range of projects, but the true impact of this support cannot be read in the statistics of regional-distribution, nor in the financial report. The true impact is less quantifiable, but still important: it is the story of citizens from all walks of life coming together to learn, to teach, to lobby, to show that they care, it is ostensibly the story of people taking charge.

Impact

The grant applications received and approved in 1992 reflected a broad spectrum of approaches to meeting the challenges of the environmental crisis: from celebrations on nature to water pollution monitoring programs, from drafting environmental law with public participation to environmental journalism, and from the complex to the simple. The aim of the grants process, the common thread throughout, is the development of a civic society that can deal with the problems now and in the future. All grants in 1992 were given to environmental grass-roots non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the region, reflecting the view that these groups are the best vehicle for promoting public participation in the environmental field.

Throughout the year, to encourage NGO participation from the region in international fora and to promote NGO cooperation on issues, we supported NGO participation in a number of conferences,

workshops and meetings. Another area which received much attention was public participation in solving specific environmental problems. The Center supported independent studies, lobbying efforts, negotiations, and direct actions by citizens. Lastly, a large number of grants went towards the collecting and dissemination of information: information centers, public services and communication links were established to serve a variety of public information needs.

Regionality

Because of the preponderance of grants awarded to Hungarian groups in 1991, the Center made every effort in 1992 to encourage grant applications from the other countries of the region. The advantage for Hungary was the result of the Hungarian government's early involvement, the location of the Center in Budapest, and the publicity that the Center received in Hungary in 1990 and 1991. The help of the Outreach Offices in 1992, their first year of operations, was instrumental in making the grants more representative of the region. Trips by grant managers to each of the countries also had a very positive impact. Compared with the first year of operations, grant applications increased by 112% in Poland, 73% in CSFR (now Czech Republic and Slovak Republic), 92% in Romania, and 184% in Bulgaria. As a result, the number of grants (in aggregate) given in these countries more than doubled. See figures 1-4.

1991

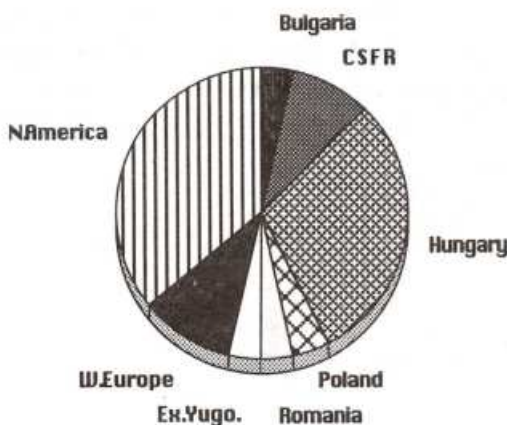


Figure 1 shows number of Applications Received by Country

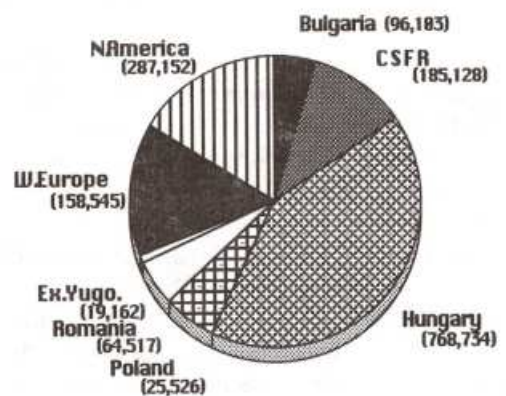


Figure 2 shows number of Applications Approved by Country. (Total Grant ECU amount in parenthesis.)

Evaluation and Improvements

In 1992, the reviewing process was improved. The evaluation criteria have been further specified and the East-European perspective has been strengthened with four Associate Program Managers from the region. It was a learning experience both for the applicants and the grants committee at the Center. Recognizing that the lack of experience in grant proposal writing and project management were a common barrier to many grantees, we gave greater assistance to the applicants in 1992, giving feedback and advice when needed. The quality of the projects improved visibly. In fact, the rate of approval (which was about 20%) did not reflect the proportion of quality projects; unfortunately it was a reflection of our limited resources.

Despite these improvements, certain inevitable problems of the grant program were identified in 1992 through the evaluation process. Consequently, a new approach to the grants program will be developed in 1993. One major objective is to award grants more evenly, with evaluations reflecting clearer criteria. Another objective is to focus the grants on specific areas of concern, rather than having them dispersed in many different areas. While substantial effort has gone into improving and refining the system of grant management, PA Consultants made the following observations: one, the criteria for judging applications still does not adequately reflect the priorities and needs of specific constituents and countries; and two, the criteria do not reflect a recognition of value for money. Furthermore they noted that the adoption of English as a common language, while a necessity for the

Budapest office, is a significant barrier to applications from the grass-roots level. As a result of the PA Consultants' analysis, and the analyses of the grant managers in consultations with grantees, the grants program will be modified in 1993 according to strategic plans. These plans call for the grant program to be split into two areas: earmarked grants and local grants.

The Earmarked Grants Program, which will come into existence in 1993, will make the process more competitive and enable the grants to be better managed. Categories will be chosen based on a survey of NGO priorities and money earmarked, or set aside, for each category. Applicants will be accepted for only those categories and all applications will be evaluated at the same time with the help of experts in those categories. The Local Grants Program, slated to begin in September 1993 will be conducted in local languages and will provide small amounts of funds for operational costs such as rent, salaries, and equipment and for local events sponsored by grass-roots NGOs.

All of the planned changes are intended to make the grants program more responsive and able to meet the needs of our primary constituents: Central and East-European NGOs. The grants program will continue to be a priority - it is a positive and powerful tool for empowering the people of the region.

1992

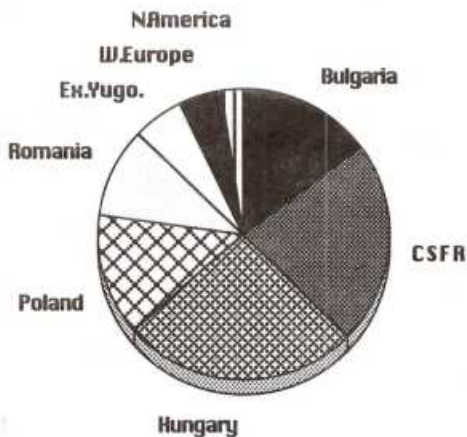


Figure 3 shows number of Applications Received by Country

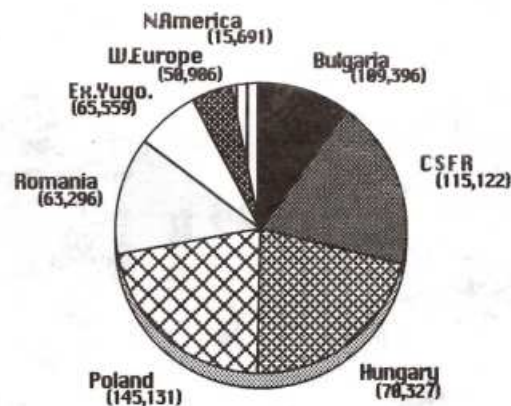


Figure 4 shows number of Applications Approved by Country. (Total Grant ECU amount in parenthesis.)

Highlights

The following 10 projects were selected to provide a more in-depth view into the Center's Grant Program. They represent a cross-section of projects that the Center supports and are found on the odd numbered pages.

DIRECT GRANT #548

Ecologically Sound Use of Building Materials

Project Officer: Peter J. Simeonov, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria

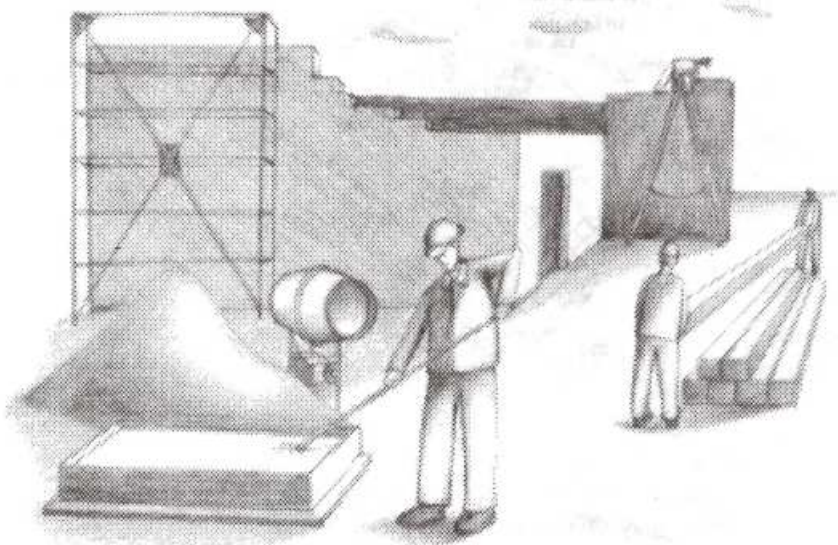
Due to the current transition in Bulgaria, the construction and repairation of private homes, businesses, barns and other out-buildings has become an increasingly active sector. However, as much of the construction is being done on a private basis, this building surge has resulted in people buying building materials on their own and doing most of the construction themselves. For the most part, the people are unaware of the risks involved in their actions, both environmentally and personally.

Free trade during this transition period has lead and will continue to lead to the introduction of some dangerous materials and technology. For example, already there has been an introduction of a production process to make asbestos-cement panels. There is a great need for information about building materials and safe disposal of hazardous waste. This information would in turn increase public awareness about the protection of the environment and human health during construction and reparation work.

With the help of the REC funds, the above needs are being fulfilled by the compilation of a manual for the ecologically sound use of building materials and the completion of a survey on building materials produced and imported in Bulgaria and the technology needed for their application. The aim of the manual is to put together information about the building materials used in Bulgaria and their composition and properties which may have adverse effects on health and may also cause environmental pollution and deterioration. The information provides the name, composition, properties, application, hazards, alternative substances, safe use and safe disposal of materials ranging from paints and dyes to polyurethane, phenol-formaldehyde and asbestos-cement materials.

The survey on building materials produced and imported in Bulgaria covers the production, import, and home application of each material. The hazards of mixing different compositions is discussed in light of the substances raw materials and technological application.

The manual and survey (or Handbook) are going to be introduced to the general public in April of 1994, with the help of local NGOs from ten principle cities where regional meetings or workshops will take place to discuss the aims and goals of the manual and define the tasks needed to be done for its distribution. The Handbook will be distributed to: participants in the regional meetings; undergraduate students from the University of Architecture, Building and Geology in Sofia; seminar participants; libraries of NGOs; all institutions connected and interested in the problem; and, firms with building, reconstruction and demolition activities.



Projects Approved in 1992

From January 1 through December 31, 1992 direct grants were awarded to 80 projects submitted to the Center. A listing by categories (Educational & Training; Public Participation; Public Awareness; Institutional Development) of all those projects which received funding is on the following odd numbered pages. Many of the projects described had additional funding.

Educational or Training:

These projects were aimed at creating educational materials, teaching children, or providing educational experiences for a variety of audiences.

ACTIVE APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (# 661)

1,265 ECU to support the publishing and printing of a report - the product of grant no. 281, which was produced in English based on training workshops in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The report promotes holistic environmental education, encouraging personal responses and environmental commitment. It can be used by teachers and other educators as a practical guide, giving both theoretical background and various activity descriptions. // Andrea Deri, Szilagy E. Fasor 3, Budapest 1024, Hungary.

AIR POLLUTION PROJECT (#469)

4,660 ECU to support a project utilizing simple monitoring methods for several types of pollution, with the aim of teaching primary school students about the main causes and consequences of air pollution. // Jana Ledvinova, 9 Local Group Nature Conservation, Severovýchodni V/1523, 141 00 Prague 4, Czech Rep.

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE DAYS (#421)

370 ECU to support a complex environmental education project including a series of lectures, live specimens, exhibition of posters and drawings. It is organized in a way that handicapped children can also take part // Dr. Miklos G. Puky, Ponty u.4. 1/2, 1011 Budapest, Hungary.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL TRAINING THROUGH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE#418)

1,952 ECU to support an international study tour in Central and Eastern Europe. The participants, from all over the region, took part in environmental excursions and discussions in order to learn more about the ecological situation in the region. // Katarina Matejcikova, Strom Zivota, Prazska 11, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovakia.

CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE: ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION (#504)

14,000 ECU to support a conference for lecturers and decision-makers, interested in developing environmental curricula and programs at university level in Central and Eastern Europe. // Zia C. Daniell, Central European University, Uri u. 49., 1014 Budapest, Hungary.

EARTHLINKS FOUNDATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROJECT (#390)

8,445 ECU to support the training of young people to become effective environmental activists in their emerging democratic society. // Will W. Rose, Earthlinks Foundation, Lublanska 18, Praha 2 120 00, Czech Rep.

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP "NATURAMY '92" (#513)

4,300 ECU to support a one-week event, organized for children in order to make them more sensitive to nature and the environment. The children have direct experience of nature, do practical activities for the environment, and express their relationship with nature in artistic forms. // Ryszard Lukaszewicz, Free Educational Initiatives Foundation, Drukarska 10/7, 53-312 Wroclaw, Poland.

ECOTOPIA - '92 IN BULGARIA (#445)

4,452 ECU to support a summer environmental university and festival, organized by ECOTOPIA in Bulgaria. More than 370 environmental NGOs will participate in the event with one of the major themes being renewable energy resources. Support is given to the Bulgarian co-organizers. // Luchesar Blagovestov Toshev, Ecoglasnost, P.O.Box 548, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Air Pollution Project CS

Project Officer: Jana Ledvinova, TEREZA - 9 Local Groups for Nature Conservation

In cooperation with environmental organizations in 12 different countries (Including: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, the Baltic States, Great Britain and the Scandinavian Countries), an Air Pollution Project has been organized by the Norwegian Conservation Society (NNV). Approximately 120,000 school children in the 6th to 8th grades have taken part. While the current project will be finished in September of 1993, it is hoped that it will be repeated with the additional participation of Russia, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

As a consequence of REC funding in the Czech and Slovak Republics, 549 students (90 in Slovakia and 449 in the Czech Republic) were able to participate in the testing period, and many more benefited from observing the tests and participating in the discussions and follow-up activities. The Czechoslovak coordinator of the project was "Tereza", Czech Union for Nature Conservation. Following the division of Czechoslovakia, "Strom Zivota" became the Slovak organizer in the spring of 1993.

The objective of the project was to give both students and

teachers a better understanding of the sources of air pollution and the mechanisms available for combatting it locally. This process also led to a more concrete understanding of the correlation between rain-water acidity and the geographical movement of air masses.

During the first period of the activity, a promotional campaign was held. Over 3000 leaflets were distributed and many media contacts were established. A Czechoslovak version of the methodological brochure was prepared. It included background information, descriptions of activities, suggestions as to how to use them pedagogically, and captured the status of current Czechoslovak air pollution. The brochure also contained all of the necessary materials needed for data collection as well as information on how to contact media and local authorities.

The second stage consisted, in part, of the students recording the level of acidity in the precipitation and observing the way in which rain clouds appeared in Prague and then left, carrying acid rain throughout Europe. At one testing site, the children found that the outcome of the first test was that the rain was not very acidic, and then discovered the following day it to be very acidic. They discovered that a big polluter was a local central heating plant just across the road from the school. The class wrote an article to the local newspaper about the acid rain that they discovered through testing. Their observations were written down and sent to Norway for analysis. A collective European report was then made and in turn sent back to the groups of school children so that they would be able to compare their own results with the average results of their country and the rest of Europe.

For the third part of the project the groups were given two types of tobacco plants. One type was very susceptible to low ozone - that which is produced from sunlight hitting ground pollution or air pollution over long periods of time - and the second type was not susceptible. The students grew the two types of plants and then exposed them to the regular rigors of the outdoors. They were then able to observe how each type reacted.

The students and their teachers acquired further knowledge about the sources of air pollution, effects of this pollution on plant, animal, and human life and ways of alleviating those problems. In addition, they became familiar with the use of a pH scale as a means of measuring acidity and gained background knowledge about scientific work. The practical work of the project involved the pupils more directly than most other approaches to teaching and therefore it was enthusiastically embraced by all who participated.

"Before, we only learned about pollution as a theoretical problem. This...allows us to learn from our own experience. I think it is important that we start to understand the pollution problem while we are children."

- 14 year old Petr Schreider

"By agreeing to help chop the wood, I have got my parents to stop using coal and start using wood to heat the holiday cottage."

- 14 year old Michal Kajen

(From an article by Anders Gjesvik in "Acid Rain Project", Norges Naturvernforbund)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE FOR TOURISTS (#514)

1,832 ECU to support the development of a lake and groundwater educational brochure for tourists, which will be distributed in the Masurian Lake District. // Marek Sieminski, The Ecology and Health Foundation, Ul. Ujazdowski 13, 00-567 Warsaw, Poland.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEST FOR STUDENTS FROM CONSTANTA REGION (#583)

599 ECU to support the elaboration and free distribution of ecological questionnaires for different aged school groups in the Constanta Region. // Viorel Trucmel, TER Constanta, Vasile Alecsandri Str. 7, Constanta 8700, Romania.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS (#424)

3,208 ECU to support a model of environmental education for teachers and other educators that was set up in Hungary in 1991. As a follow up to that training, this project took place in Czech, with observers from countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The aim is to provide a holistic approach to environmental education, and encourage personal commitment to the protection of the environment. // Jiri Kulich, Foundation for Environmental Education "EVA" CSEV Rychory, 542 26 Horni Marsov, Czech Rep.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CROATIA (# 618)

14,770 ECU to support NGOs in rural areas of Croatia and in Zagreb to produce brochures and videos on local environmental problems in order to inform the public. In Croatia, there is a lack of environmental NGOs and environmental education. They also plan to introduce environmental education in elementary and secondary schools in the form of "green hours", and for the inhabitants of Durdevac, Delnice, and Zagreb. While the methodology will be similar in the three areas, topics will be different, according to local environmental priorities. // Vladimir Lay, Green Action Zagreb, Radnicka c. 22, Zagreb 41000, Croatia.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERIES FOR TEACHERS (#524)

2,884 ECU to support the organization of five three-day courses of environmental lectures and activities for 100 teachers from elementary schools. Methodology and context will be discussed. // Dagmar Liskova, OKV SZOPK, Kniezata Pribinu 24, 911 01 Trencin, Slovakia.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM FOR NATURE SCHOOL (# 655)

857 ECU to support a project with the aim of improving the level of environmental knowledge in the heavily polluted Prievidza region (CSFR), by organizing 12 day programmes for 8-11 years old children at a field centre as "nature school". They will learn more about their own environment through creative activities such as games and dramas. The first part of the programme is focused on training teachers to continue the programme ("training the trainers"). The results will be put into practical educational materials. // Lacenova Dana, Center of Environmental Education, c/o SZOPK, P.O. Box 152, Prievidza 97101, Slovakia.

ENVIRONMENTAL VIDEO LIBRARY (#515)

8,483 ECU to support SOEM (Polish Service Office for the Environmental Movement) to create an environmental video collection and make it available for wide reaching environmental education in Poland. // Jolanta Pawlak, The Service Office for the Environmental Movement, ul. Szara 14/34, 00-420 Warsaw, Poland.

FAIR OF PRACTICAL UTOPIAS; THE FIRST FOUR YEARS AND GOING BEYOND (#509)

8,939 ECU to support The Fair of Practical Utopias which is an annual event that presents experience, projects, and solutions of ecological conversion. The themes of the first four years have been the classical elements: water, earth, fire and air. // Karl-Ludwig Schibel, Laboratorio Ambientale dell'Alta Valla, del Tevere, 06012 Citta di Castello, Italy.

FOR MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLDS (#540)

8,155 ECU to support the preparation of a program of environmental protection training courses and to conduct the courses for leaders who will teach household members in rural and urban areas. Change in behavior and attitude towards the environment will be achieved by raising the consciousness of all family members. // Teresa Palaszewska-Reindl, Polish Home Economics Association, str. Koszykowa 10, 00-564 Warsaw, Poland.

GREEN HEART DANUBE MONITORING SUMMER CAMP (#533)

1,000 ECU to support a nature and environmental education summer camp for primary school children, focusing on Danube water quality testing. Including outdoor and nature activities, as well as speakers from local governments, academia, etc. // Aniko Orgovanyi, Green Heart Youth Movement for Nature Conservation, 2013 Pomaz, Matyas K. u. 2, Hungary.

SOS Black Sea

Project Officer: Mara Silina, SOS Black Sea Committee and Friends of the Earth (FOE) -Eastern Europe

The Black Sea is one of the largest enclosed bodies of water in the world and is consequently becoming more and more polluted due to household and industrial waste. The excessive damage to the sea and surrounding ecosystems has raised public awareness, but attempts to remedy the situation is hampered by a lack of coordination.

Thus, the need for a meeting of all the Black Sea Riparian states to create a regional action program, similar to the Coalition for a Cleaner Baltic or the Mediterranean Action Programme, was very apparent. Ecoglasnost and CEAT, organized the first workshop to bring together NGOs interested in a campaign to clean up the Black Sea. The workshop which was held from the 13th to the 15th of March 1992 in Varna, Bulgaria, was one of the first opportunities for environmental organizations from around the Black Sea to exchange information about the environmental problems

plaguing the Black Sea. In addition to NGOs from the countries surrounding the Black Sea and the Danube, whose waters contribute a large part of the pollution to the Sea, experts were asked to speak about international issues in relation to environmental protection, water protection and environmental education.

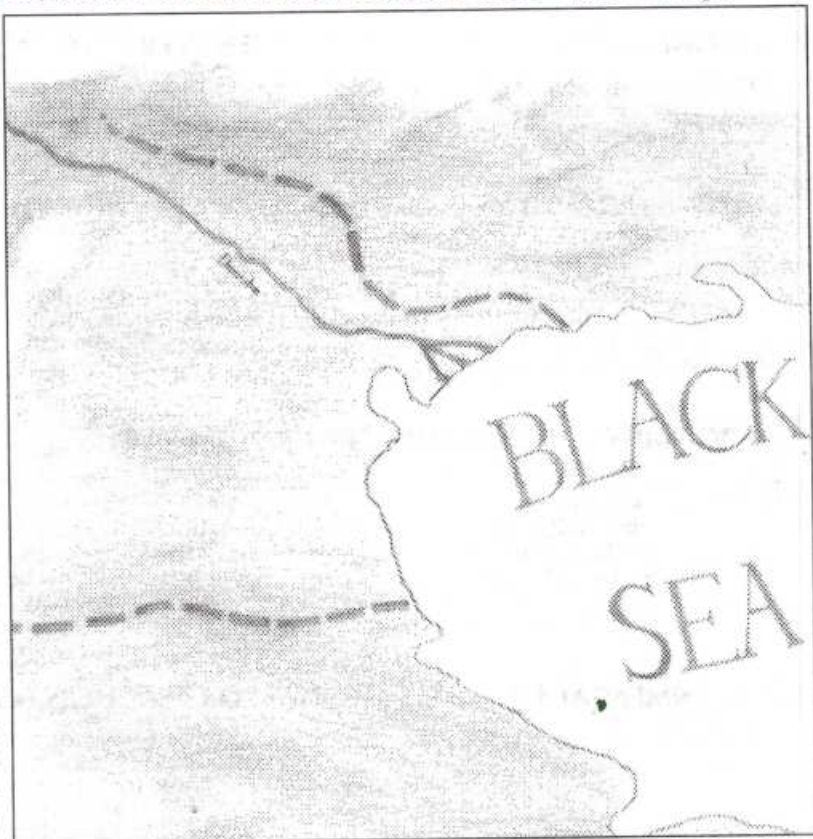
The current situation in each of the Black Sea states was reported on by NGO representatives. The reports, varying in scientific complexity offered a well balanced group of material that emphasized the many different approaches available. In the second part of the workshop, Mr. Nijkamp, from Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) Ocean Environment Section, presented information compiled during the ten years FOEI has observed and participated in the Barcelona Convention, The London Dumping Convention, and the MARPOL Convention, among others. The importance and meaning of international agreements were illustrated by Mr. Rodionov from the Helsinki Commission and Mr. Dogterom from ICWS/UNDP. Ms. Silina (FOE-EAST) suggested ways to use the existing practical experience of Coalition Clean Baltic.

The workshop set up a coalition or network of NGOs to begin regular co-operation in exchanging information, developing common activities, lobbying the governments for NGO involvement in Black Sea programmes, and publishing a Black Sea newsletter. This newsletter was eagerly supported by the participants, who feel it will be the backbone of a future filled with change.

As a result of the workshop, the Coalition, "Save the Black Sea," was established. It will seek to ensure proper information flow between public and governmental institutions, increase public awareness about the procedures for public participation in the decision-making process and pressure local, national and international institutions to implement conventions, laws and regulations concerning environmental protection. The first steps include initiating a Coalition Secretariat, developing co-operation between the environmental organizations, establishing contacts with the governmental institutions, such as UNDP, UNEP, and preparing the first official conference of the Coalition.

"The Workshop brought together people with very different experience in this field: NGO's representatives from the Black Sea riparian countries, who were just beginning joint efforts for the protection and improvement of the Black Sea environment as well as representatives of international institutions and organizations - specialized in marine environment protection and experienced in cooperating with local and foreign environmental NGOs. It was a very good opportunity for us to learn, to exchange ideas and to meet very interesting people."

- Cristina Motoi, Workshop participant from People and the Environment, Romania



INFORMATION CENTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (#336)

6,737 ECU to support an information Center that would serve as clearinghouse and consultation point for all NGOs and other organizations involved in environmental education. // Hana Kulichova, Czev Rychory, Horni Marsov 542 26, Czech Rep.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION AND FRIENDSHIP GALLERY (#459)

2,300 ECU to support the organization of an international children's art exhibition and competition with participants from seven countries. The topic of the event is the environment. It will be publicized through the media and there will be a two week exhibition of the best entries. // Sandor Begany, Kilato Gallery, Nyuszi setany 14, 1213 Budapest, Hungary.

LECTURES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RECORDED ON VIDEO TAPES. (#542)

4,074 ECU to support 22 lectures dealing with environmental topics. Photos, figures and charts will be recorded and distributed to Polish NGOs for educational purposes. // Sandner Henry, Polish Society of Natural History, ul Rakowiecka 36, Warsaw 02-521, Poland.

POPULAR ECOLOGICAL GLOSSARY (# 518)

14,814 ECU to support the production and publishing of an ecological glossary on ecology and environmental protection (in Polish). The integral part of the glossary will be constituted by definitions of a number of basic terms and entries common in literature dealing with ecology and environmental protection. The definitions will be given in Polish, English and German. The glossary will be distributed widely to schools, NGOs, local government, and it will be made available to the public. // Andrzej Tyszecki, Ecobaltic Foundation, Ul. Jaskowa Dolina 76, Gdansk 80286, Poland.

PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS (#474)

3,434 ECU to support the preparation of English, German, Hungarian, and Polish versions of short environmental documentary films on regional environmental topics. // Miroslav Kundrat, Veronica, P.P 91, 601 91 Brno 1, Slovakia.

PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE IN THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION (# 557)

7,081 ECU to support a program with the goal to transmit knowledge to the agriculture community on changing production to ecological methods. There will be courses, training and scientific sessions, as well as sessions for students from various schools. The intention is to give training to a huge number of people who have or will have an influence on the agricultural practice in the Wielkopolska Region, and the project could be used as a model for Central and Eastern Europe. // Krystyna A. Tobola, Polish Ecological Club, Ul. Miskiewiczza 35, Poznan 60837, Poland.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF ECOLOGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS (# 659)

960 ECU to support the development of a method for the evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental education. Essays of children will be analyzed, and methodology will be prepared and tested in cooperation with an existing REC Environmental Education Project. // Durda Sucevic, Trg Petra Preradovica 5, Zagreb 41000, Croatia.

SUMMER NATURE CAMP IN ENGLISH (#495)

672 ECU to support environmental camps in English for secondary school students who have studied English for at least two years. Participants will be from several countries of the region. There will be four one-week camps with daily discussion and programs centered around animal and plant life, solid waste, air and water pollution. // Thomas R. Wise, Esze Tamas Gimnazium, Kazinczy u.7., 4700 Mateszalka, Hungary.

TRAINING COURSE KARST (#473)

1,548 ECU to support field trips and lectures to teach participants the significance of the karst and the major environmental threats to it. One of the aims of the project is an exchange of experiences, and the development of standardized methods of monitoring the pollution of the karst. // Peter Kerdo, P.F. Cave Research Association, Kistacio u. 9, 1082 Budapest, Hungary.

TRAINING FOR NGO ACTIVITIES - POLLUTION CONTROL OF THE DANUBE (#599)

3,302 ECU to support a training camp for future activists to develop skills such as sampling and pollution control, as well as discussing environmental legislation and compliance. // Savova Yonka, Green Patrols, 39 Dondukov Str, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria.

Environmental Reporting Workshop

Project Officer: Wayne Dillehay, Center of Foreign Journalists, United States

With the disintegration of the iron curtain, the true extent of environmental affliction and neglect is only now beginning to emerge. Journalists, although eager to play a key role in communicating information about the environment and development, are faced with a set of daunting problems. Among these are the lack of background information, censorship, bad pay and working conditions, lack of resources and public disinterest. To discuss ways to alleviate these problems, the Center for Foreign Journalists conducted an intensive professional workshop on news coverage of environmental issues. Journalists from all over the Central and Eastern Europe region met, in Prague, February 21-23, 1992.

Reporters and editors from eight countries participated in this news workshop conducted by a faculty of experienced reporters, scientists and economists. The aim of the workshop was to provide useful information about environmental issues and to improve journalistic skills in covering them.

Journalists require better access to information. This includes background facts and figures having to do with specific environmental problems, as well as technical or scientific knowledge necessary for the non-specialist journalist to understand the issue. A lack of cooperation by authorities, public and private, in providing this background information, makes such necessary research a difficult challenge.

Censorship is still a reality. Many of the journalists reported a great deal of self-censorship in their work. They are deeply concerned about the possible political socio-economic ramifications and effects of their work; they wonder at the advisability of exactly imitating the West's pre-occupation with free and liberal expression. On the other hand, in both Hungary and Czechoslovakia, journalists describe common practices that allow public officials, who were the subject of interviews, to review, edit and even deny publication authority to the journalist. This continues to have a significant chilling effect on free and open reporting. Nonetheless, the reporters question whether, by taking the advice of Western experts, they (the societies of the region) might inadvertently repeat some of the same mistakes made in the West.

The participants found the personal experience of meeting other reporters, making contacts and being provided with various background materials the most valuable components of the workshop. Also, Dianne Dumanoski and Tom Meersman, both well-known American environmental journalists, described their respective versions of professional journalism through "model stories", and gave specific tips on how to approach audiences in such stories. "You have nice, well-preserved places. Show the good moments in bad stories," advised Dumanoski of the Boston Globe.

Most of the journalists perceive public disinterest in the environmental issues, and wonder about the usefulness of their work. Journalists are often poorly paid and overworked. The chance to discuss professional problems with colleagues from other countries was a definite benefit to those involved. Also, participants from both the West and Eastern Europe recognized that there is still much to be preserved in the region; not all of the environmental issues are negative - there are still some "green" areas remaining.

As a follow-up to the workshop a twenty-two page booklet which described and explained the workshop was produced. The workshop can serve as a model for other professions with similar problems and relations to the West. (Partly compiled from an article by Ivo Bartik, "Journalism Training in Prague", ONE Environment, Vol.1, No.3)

"[The program] gave me the tremendous feeling that I am not alone, that I belong to a special group of reporters and that I am on the right track. [It] gave me confidence in my work."

- From an evaluation by a workshop participant

"The workshop was very useful for meeting colleagues from the United States and from Central and Eastern Europe. From the journalist from WWF for instance, I received important background materials. We exchanged experiences with a few American journalists representing a local broadcasting station. Contacts with colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe are absolutely important: we experience the same kind of problems and can share experiences. With some colleagues from the workshop I still have contact. I attended other workshops and courses in the United States, but the workshop in Prague had an extra value because I could meet colleagues from this region."

- Eugeniusz Pudlis, workshop participant & reporter for the newspaper "The Warsaw Voice", Poland

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"UNPROTECTED NATURE" SEMINAR (#511)

1,000 ECU to support a seminar for students, with various backgrounds and from different colleges of Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, in order to expose them to a wide range of our global environmental problems and their impact on several fields, such as economics, education, and the health sciences. // Piroska Kerti, AIESEC KVF, Alkotmany u. 9-11., 1054 Budapest, Hungary.

URBAN FRINGE ZONES (#541)

3,886 ECU to support a workshop concerned with the environmental problems of the Mazurian region (Poland). Support is given to cover the expenses of student participants from the Region. // Wolski Przemyslaw, Young Landscape Architects Organization, ul. Piekalkiewicza 3/15, 00-710 Warsaw, Poland.

Public Participation:

Projects that involve direct action or steps taken to encourage or organize direct actions or campaigns.

ALL LAWS EXIST, BUT PREVENTION OF NOISE POLLUTION FAILS. WHY? (#552)

1,050 ECU to support a project with the aim of enforcing and improving laws and regulations on noise. After an investigation of reasons why these regulations do not work in Croatia, suggestions will be elaborated on overcoming the obstacles of protection from noise. // Darinka B. Henich, Benesiceva 21, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia.

ALL-POLISH EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF THE CLUB "GAIA" (#512)

662 ECU to support a series of workshops, held in 15 cities of Poland for local communities. The goal of the project is to train the participants in the ways they can help the environment locally; promotion of cooperation among diverse interests on a local level in solving environmental problems; and the development of a network of NGOs in Poland. // Jacek Bozek, "GAIA" Club, Nad Wilkowka 24, 43-365, Wilkowice, Poland.

AN NGO FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (#483)

39,312 ECU to support a forum to ensure public participation in the Danube River Basin Environmental Program Task Force. A network of NGO groups in each riparian country will disseminate information about Task Force activities and bring public concerns about Danube Basin ecological needs to the attention of the Task Force. NGO experts will participate in Task Force working subgroups and other activities. // Irene L. Murphy, Ecolglasnost and ecologist youth of Romania, Arpad Fejedelem utja 38, Bp 1023, Hungary.

AWARENESS-RAISING PROJECT ON INCINERATION VS. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY (#506)

918 ECU to support a series of lectures to be given in Krakow, Katowice, Gdansk, and Warsaw, on waste management, and in particular, incineration. The project intends to encourage community participation in public policy decision-making. // Jolanta Pawlak, Service Office for the Environmental Movement, ul. Szara 14/34, 00-420 Warsaw, Poland.

CIVIL MOVEMENT AGAINST NOISE DAMAGE (#414)

928 ECU to support the mobilization of experts and the public against noise pollution. The opinions and suggestions of experts for changing the laws and regulations on noise will be used. Also there will be public awareness campaigns on the health damage caused by noise. // Maria Zador, ECO Earth Group of the Civil Organization of Town Protectors, Lovolde ter 4. 1/2, 1028 Budapest, Hungary.

COMPUTER LIBRARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES (#371)

7,080 ECU to support an information center containing basic databases to help local movements in their efforts to eliminate the hazards posed by the environmental contamination to the health of people. // Marek Sieminski, Ecology and Health Foundation, ul. Ujazdowskie 13, 00-567 Warsaw, Poland.

Ecological Education Workshop "NATURAMY"

Project Officer: Ryszard Lukaszewicz, Free Educational Initiatives Foundation, Poland

The Free Educational Initiatives Foundation promotes unconventional activities called NATURamy. The foundation's activity workshops attract, involve, and absorb the ingeniousness of both children and adults. Taught amidst the landscape and forests in the Swieradow region and the Izerskie Mountains, these workshops constitute a meaningful and well-planned educational opportunity to free the young from the rituals of a traditional school.

Participants of the June workshop, a melting pot of children, included 65 children from the towns of Wroclaw, Kalisz, Hamburg and Swieradow, 8 from Kopaniec, 2 from Szklarska Poreba, and 15 from Czernobyl who temporarily stayed in Poland.

However, NATURamy is more than a children's camp. This year a couple dozen of adults participated as both organizers and co-workers. This included some parents, professional and non-professional educators, a video recorder technician, a mime and apprentice, a photographer, translators, artists, journalists, students, and an educational TV crew.

On the first day, Monday, children marched through a sulphuric forest in Swieradow composed of hectares of withered trees, industrial and heavy metals, ECO boxes were made out of Xerox paper boxes to store various treasures, stones, herbs etc.

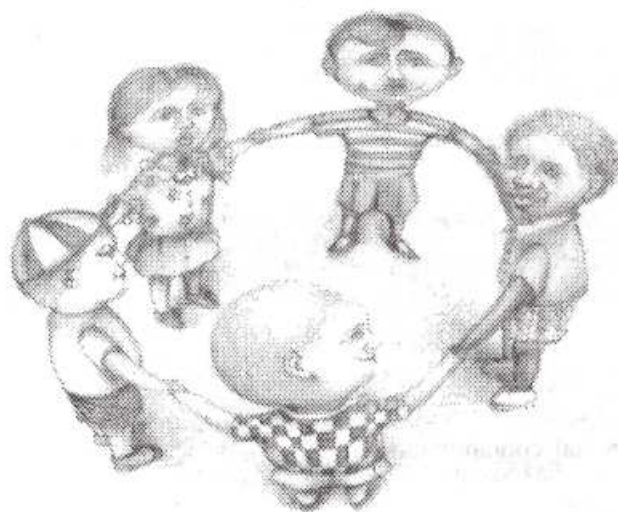
An all day project on Tuesday started with drawing the silhouettes of children on large sheets of paper. After a discussion about the conflicts of daily life and the feeling of being torn apart, the cut-out silhouette was torn in two. The right side of the body was painted black representing civilization, the left side was painted a color of the rainbow, and secret shapes from colorful fabric were attached. Fruit trees were planted in the kindergarten on the same day.

Thursday, the children set out to do the "fool's job" and spent a few hours cleaning up a beautiful spa park littered with sticks, hundreds of kilograms of rotten leaves, bottles, old shoes and much more. After spending the entire day in the "black triangle" of huge Polish, German and Czech power stations, Children picketed in front of the Turow power, and workers were taken aback by mimes who expressed the final moments of our world, the last bird, the first ray of sunshine, the last raven, the last rose. Crossing the border at Sieniawka and Zittau, the seat of Euroregion "nysa", they ask for support of their endeavors to set up the station of ecological education.

The NATURamy foundation's philosophy is founded on the tenant that "every form of life is sacred" and driven by the idea that this must be learned and handed down to our children.

The inspiration here is so huge that an idea has been put forward to prepare a happening for Earth Day 1994. We wish that the entire class could have a chance to go to NATURamy 93

- The headmasters and teachers of the primary school in Dlugeleka



I support NATURamy by all means and will with pleasure host its participants in our town and provide them with assistance.

- Piotr Puzyński, Mayor of the town of Swieradów Zdró

We would like to thank you for accepting our children as participants in the NATURamy workshop organized this year. We know how much our children enjoyed the workshop, how willingly they worked. This positive change can be seen in them today: they are more sensitive, especially towards problems of the environment and towards their fellow human beings.

- The parents of Pielgrzymowic

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION THROUGH DEMONSTRATIVE PRACTICE OF SALUBRITY IN BUCEGI MOUNTAINS (#554)

8,858 ECU to support ecological cleaning and landscape recovery of the Bucegi Mountains in Romania, by elimination and prevention of wastes. There will be a press conference and leaflets about the projects activities and results will be prepared and distributed. // Aelenei Costel Liviu, "Green Shield", str. Cameliei nr. 4., bl.44. sc.B. Ap.41, Poliesti 2000, Romania.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC ADVOCACY CENTER (# 420)

3,704 ECU to support the bringing of information about various possible legal instruments - now in the hands of experts - to the public, and to strengthen public participation in decision making. Method includes publishing of a book on these subjects for Slovakia. It will serve for environmentalists, university students, state authorities, parliament deputies and local governments. // Juraj Zamkovsky, SZOPK, Godorova 3/b, Bratislava 81106, Slovakia.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL OFFICE (# 629)

7,887 ECU to support the establishment of an environmental legal assistance office in Györ (Hungary) to support citizens and local governments in environmental matters. Models will be developed to provide a means for citizens to seek legal recourse for environmental damages and to include public participation in the process of preparing environmental impact studies. REC support was given to support an environmentally oriented test case. // Dr. Gyorgy Kalas, Reflex, Bartok Bela u. 7, Gyor 9024, Hungary.

HEAVY METAL POLLUTION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: CURRENT PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS (#449)

13,000 ECU to support a one-week workshop on solutions to heavy metal contamination problems. The objectives are to identify the most pressing problems to people and ecosystems, to set realistic intermediate targets and technologies, and to forward actionable recommendations to environmental regulatory bodies. // Nick T. de Oude, SETAC-Europeav. Prekelinden 149, 1200 Brussels, Belgium.

"LET'S SAVE CERGOV" (#436)

2,344 ECU to support an effort to save the virgin forest of the Cergov mountains in East Slovakia, through stopping the production of wood and improving forest management practices. Support is given for expert assistance in finding a solution. At the end of the project a film and brochures will be available for regional use. // Juraj Lukac, Green Perspective Foundation, P.O.Box 240, 080 01 Presov, Slovakia.

NGOs FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF ODORHEIU-SECUIESC AND ITS SURROUNDINGS (#570)

10,524 ECU to support the mobilization of the local population for the preservation of the environment, with special emphasis on the protection of water, elimination of waste, nature conservation, and environmental education. Activities will consist of tracking polluters of rivers, calling attention to how sewage is treated and problems of waste, discovering illegal waste deposits, and educating people in general about the protection of the environment through local problems. The education effort involves lectures, competitions, publications, TV programs, etc. // Jozsef Szabo, Ecoclub, Intr. Tihadar 3/12, Odorheiu Secuiesc 4150, Romania.

OZONE (# 623)

16,129 ECU to support a broad national campaign on the issue of ozone depletion in the atmosphere. Czechoslovakia is the largest producer of CFCs in Central and Eastern Europe. The aim of the project is a ban on the production and use of CFCs in Czechoslovakia. Parts of the project consist of lobbying and public campaign, the formation of an ozone working group and a coordination centre, among others. The REC supports the forming of a working group and the educational part of the public campaign. // Jan Beranek, Hnutí Duha, Vymazalova 19, Brno 61500, Czech Rep.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN WATER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN WATER-RELATED LAND USE CASES (#573)

3,271 ECU to support a three day workshop with participants from NGOs. Legislation and government will clarify the possible forms of involvement, input and direct impact of NGOs and of the public participation in inter-related land use and water management conflicts. Guidelines will be formulated for the entire region. // Marta Marcis, Landscape Protecting Association for the Zsambek Basin, 2072 Zsambek, P.O.Box 15, Hungary.

SAVE THE FOREST (#569)

2,173 ECU to support the distribution of a series of folders about pollution prevention solutions and other important topics concerning the forest in Romania. // Badea Ovidiu, The Silvicultural Progress Society, 31 Magheru Bk, Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania.

Local NGO Participation in Public Awareness - Braila Botany Garden

Project Officer: Cornel Apostol, ECO-ALPEX-024, ROMANIA

The project for the rehabilitation of the Braila Botany Garden, an area of 5 square hectares located in the Monument Park near the city's center, was initiated by the ECO-ALPEX-024 organization not only to revitalize the area by cleaning it, planting trees, marking roads and species but also in order to educate the public and spark their interest in environmental projects. The hope was that as a direct result of the public's interest, there would be pressure placed on the local government to become financially involved in the environmental problems of the region.

The project successfully engaged the public's interest with more than 100 people coming out to participate. In addition to representatives of NGOs and TER (The Ecologist Youth of Romania) branches, many of the city's youth took part and became involved. Representatives from the Municipal Council, the Environmental Agency, the Natural Science Museum and the local radio station from Galati were also present.

Over the term of the project, three main goals were attained. First, there was a major effort to clean the area by clearing brush, raking leaves, trimming bushes and repairing fences. Second, once the cleaning was finished the participants studied what plants needed to be replaced and made plans for a planting and reforestation effort. The third action taken was that during the whole length of the project, the proceedings were video taped for use in a documentary film about the entire effort.

In addition to the actual on-sight work that the participants did, they were able to visit the Natural Science Museum during their breaks to see an exhibition on the actual flora and fauna of the Braila county area of the Danube Basin. The child participants particularly enjoyed this visit and were encouraged to take a quiz on environmental protection. The people with the best answers were rewarded with books and school supplies.

This project had many educational assets, the primary one being the increased awareness and participation of the public and local authorities, and in turn the realization that NGOs can make a difference. The project will also be beneficial as a model for a successful clean-up project to be used by NGOs in the future.



"The grass-roots NGOs need the local authorities' input in their activities and it is much easier to succeed with local authorities, if there are children involved in your projects. Strategically speaking, the ECO ALPEX 024 project's most important success is the enormous amount of feedback, in terms of local authorities' support they won as a result of the pilot project."

- Bogdan O. Paranici, TER, Romania

STRATEGY OF RESTRUCTURE OF BULGARIAN INDUSTRY IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SATISFACTORY WAY (#522)

4,511 ECU to support efforts to determine the real ecological consequences resulting from the development of the Bulgarian industry. The results obtained from the study will contribute to the environmental decision-making during the process of industrial enterprises' privatization and foreign investments. // Dimitrova Tzvetana Pavlova, Bul. Emil Markov 7, 1612 Sofia, Bulgaria.

THE POLISH-CZECH PROGRAM OF ECOLOGICAL REMEDIATION OF THE SCINAWKA RIVER CATCHMENT BASIN (#527)

24,477 ECU to support a project with the aim of ecological remediation of the Scinawka river catchment basin, with a special emphasis on improving water quality through better sewage treatment, more environmentally friendly forestry and agricultural methods, and waste management. The project will be implemented through the cooperation of Polish and Czech organizations, promoting nature conservation and eco-tourism. // Jozef Miklaszewski, Foundation of Olawa and Nysa Klodzka, Ul. Pilsudskiego 15/17, Wroclaw 50044, Poland.

Public Awareness:

Projects which help to build awareness by making information more available, running specific campaigns, or bringing experts, government and citizens together.

3RD ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM (#467)

7,031 to support The Third Annual Symposium on Environmental and Occupational Health in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on "Protecting workers, the environment, and health in a market economy: translating science into policy and action". About 120 participants mostly from Central European governments, NGOs, academic and research institutions. // Barry S. Levy, Management Sciences for Health, 400 Center Str., Newton MA 02158, United States.

7TH INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO COMPETITION (# 609)

1,000 ECU to support the preparation and organization of the 7th International Environment Protection Photo competition accompanied by a photo exhibition and a high quality catalogue. Organizers offer to serve as a source of environmental photographs. REC support was given to contribute to catalogue preparation. // Peter Hidvegi, "Jaszkun" Photoclub, Dobo u. 14, Szolnok 5000, Hungary.

A MODEL NGO MINIHOST AND INFORMATION NODE (#471)

20,161 ECU to support a project which involves upgrading the already existing environmental NGO information system and service in Czechoslovakia. Nine minihost centers are to be established in the network for an easier and quicker service. The network will have access to information and environmental databases, both abroad and at home (including government information) and will be able to distribute this information to the public. // Vaclav Klinkera, Association for Easy Connection, Na Ovcinach 2, 170 00 Prague 7, Czech Rep.

A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN BULGARIA (#487)

5,854 ECU to support a photo exhibition and lectures on the environmental problems in Bulgaria and Romania, to be shown in several towns and villages of Bulgaria, in order to increase environmental awareness. // Jecko Ivanov Vassilev, Stratcin - 4, 6003 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN THE 6TH DISTRICT OF BUDAPEST (#431)

6,100 ECU to support an exhibition of the urban environment of Terezvaros, the sixth district of Budapest, focusing on the deterioration of the urban environment, rehabilitation programs, plans and projects, community involvement, and strengthening of environmental awareness. The exhibition will be transferred to cities in countries of the region. // Jozsef Saad, ELTE Institute of Sociology, Pollack M.u. 10., Budapest VIII, Hungary.

EARTH GAS HEATPUMP TASK FORCE WORKSHOP (#488)

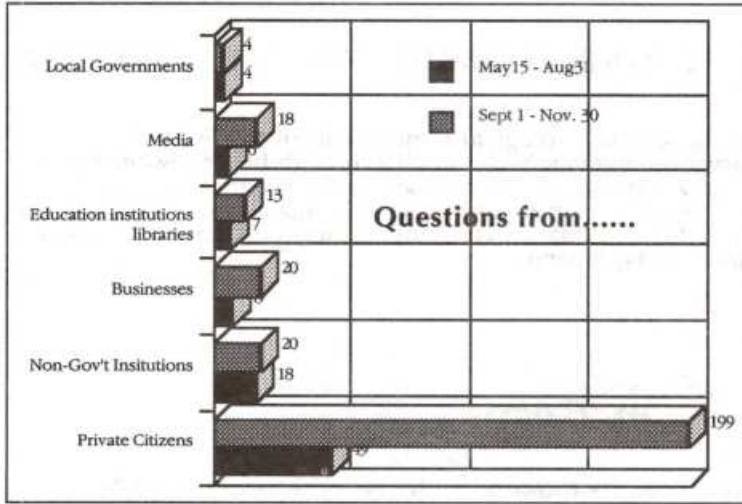
1,995 ECU to support a study on the feasibility of producing an efficient, and effective earth gas heatpump. This information and working details will be widely distributed throughout the region. // Vilmos Kizsel, Bocskai ut 63-65, 1113 Budapest, Hungary.

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ECOSERVICE

Project Officer: Beatrix Csapo, Eco Service, Hungary



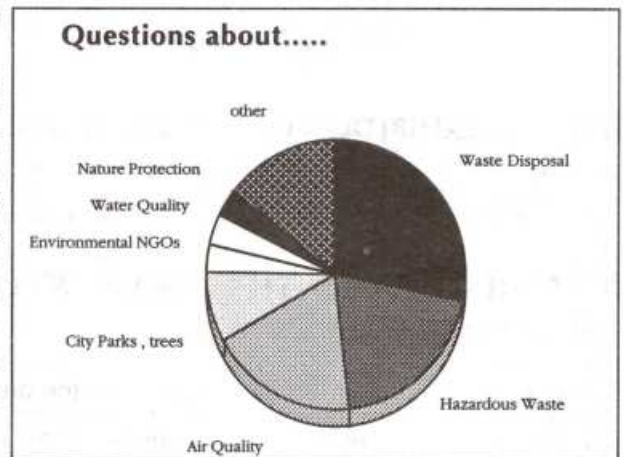
ECOSERVICE, a network established with the support of the Center fosters awareness and encourages civil initiatives in environmental protection. It is also a project which illustrates the manner in which the Center continuously reviews the grant projects to achieve the best results. Founded in 1989, Ecoservice began as a group of environmentalists sharing a common concern for the protection of the "quality of life." These environmentalists developed a project, modeled on similar "Green Hotlines" in the West. After operating for several months, an evaluation of the service by the Center revealed problem areas. Then, in close

consultations with the EcoService Board, the Center determined that the grant would be better implemented by a new staff and project officer. Now, citizens who are interested in improving the quality of their lives have an excellent resource.

The service provides information about current legislation on environmental issues and the official legal procedures for legislation. In addition, Ecoservice keeps a register of the Hungarian environmental organizations and their activities coupled with a list of specialists within the different fields of environmental protection. As a service to NGOs, it assists in the press campaign of environmental projects and actions. Eco Service has a continuous telephone counselling service that answers questions and gathers reports or observations concerning the environment. The foundation does not undertake to solve the problems but rather it transmits them to experts, competent authorities, environmental groups or the press, to promote their solution; Ecoservice encourages citizens to act on their own or in cooperation with other citizens.

ECOSERVICE has handled questions from a variety of subject fields and from a wide section of society (see graphs). To more effectively raise awareness and communicate with the public ECOSERVICE developed its own public relations by assisting Nepszabadsag in compiling the biweekly "Calendar of green events" which is sent regularly to several newspapers and institutions. They were also responsible for writing a permanent column in Lelegzet, a monthly journal of the Clean Air Action group. ECOSERVICE has also sent out press releases about several events to the press, radio and television programmes, while also providing their phone number in every issue of (Nok Lapja) a popular weekly women's newspaper. In addition, articles about ECOSERVICE were published in Magyar Nemzet, Pesti Hirlap, and Uj Magyarorszag. The Napkozi T.V. program granted regular 3-5 minute interviews, helping to publicize the service's latest activity and news.

Through the successful application to Autonomia foundation for a lap-top computer with modem, and its acquisition of a fax machine ECOSERVICE was able to improve its telecommunications capabilities and adequately help their increased number of callers. They also established international contacts with ECO-Counselling Europe, the European association of ECOSERVICES, now organizing a Europe-wide exchange for eco-counselors. After initial difficulties, ECOSERVICE has been able to meet the most urgent everyday-needs of environmental protection groups and citizens alike.



"As ECOSERVICE is the only organization in Hungary with these type of activities, it is a great help to the environmental movement and the public.more and more people contact them for information or other assistance. The support of their operation and the further development of this organization is essential for the flow of information about environmental problems and issues in the country.

- Nizák Péter, Independent Ecological Centre

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1992

ECOLOGICALLY SOUND USE OF BUILDING MATERIALS (#548)

10,950 ECU to support a survey of the building materials produced in Bulgaria; and environmental hazards resulting from different materials. A manual on ecologically sound materials will be prepared; and Regional NGO meetings will be arranged to discuss the problem. // Peter Simeonov, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Acad. G. Bontchev Str. Bl. 1, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria.

"ECOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE" (#564)

3,840 ECU to support the publishing of an issue on ecology for architects to help in developing their responsibility toward the environment. Energy issues, materials and technology will be addressed // Mihaly Varga, P.O.Box 196, 1364 Budapest, Hungary.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE GDANSK REGION. (#517)

15,775 ECU to support activities to increase public awareness with regard to nature protection. There are two groups, assumed to be of special significance for the future of the Gdansk region's environment, will be targeted; these are the local governments and the youth. // Maciejowski Marek, Ecobaltic Foundation, ul. Jaskowa Dolina 76, Gdansk 80-286, Poland.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT NETWORK ("INFOS") FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION ON POLLUTANTS IN BULGARIA (# 450)

35,549 ECU to support the establishment of an independent environmental information network on the basis of the existing structures of Ecoglasnost. The activity of INFOS will alert the public about new risks and new aspects of the already existing risks. It will enable the public to control the data collected by the governmental monitoring bodies on pollution levels, and will give the public a basis to seek improvement of environmental conditions. // Liliana Samsonova, Ecoglasnost, 41 A "Graf Ignatiev" Str., Sofia 1142, Bulgaria

GREEN HANDBOOK (# 593)

18,212 ECU to support the "Green Handbook" project which is planned to be a series of illustrated booklets which deal with current ecological issues in an attractive and approachable way. Topics include recycling, waste, forests, renewable energy resources, conscious 'green' buying, etc. Each problem will be considered in three possible levels: definition of the problem, immediate solution, and permanent solution. Finally the booklets will be put together in a book. Publications will be distributed in Croatia through the Ministry of Education, Ministry for Environmental Protection, Tourist Alliance, Applicant and other NGOs, with special focus on the young generation. // Mario Pehnek, Society for Improvement of Quality of Life, Ilica 72, Zagreb 41000, Croatia.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROGRAM (#566)

15,900 ECU to support the development of a manual of good practice as an awareness raising and training tool for local authority officials in the region. It will be developed partly from a workshop from Eastern European and Western participants where different types of experiences will be exchanged. // Krzysztof Kamieniecki, Inst. of Sustainable Development, ul. Krywickiego 9, 02-078 Warsaw, Poland.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON LAKE BALATON'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (#443)

1,000 ECU to support the organization of a workshop that would inform local journalists about the recent environmental problems and possible solutions around Lake Balaton. // Sandor Rosta, Balaton Foundation, 8230 Balatonfured, P.O.Box 39, Hungary.

MONITORING OF RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION PROJECTS IN ROMANIA (#562)

943 ECU to support data collection on radioactivity levels in homes in the region of Matraderecske, to point out health effects; and in local wells, to determine whether a connection exists between high radioactivity levels and nearby industry. // Dr. Eszter Toth, Environmental Conscious Group, 1012 Budapest, Logodi u. 48., Hungary.

NEWS ITEMS FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (#439)

7,000 ECU to support production and distribution of six booklets in seven languages in CEE. They contain New Items for the Environmental Movement in the Region. The items are directly related to existing or emerging campaigns and to training activities organized for the CEE environmental organizations. // John Hontelez, Friends of the Earth International, Minister Elanderaat 27, Nijmegen 6523 C, The Netherlands.

NGO PILOT ACTION FOR FUTURE NATIONAL PARKS IN ROMANIA (#592)

3,291 ECU to support the collaboration of several Romanian NGOs on a project to call attention to the problems of National Parks in Romania and how legislation can help. Activities include preparing folders, maps and a documentary film. // Cristian Lascu, Group for Underwater and Speleological Exploration, 11 Frumoasa str, Sect 1, Bucharest 78114, Romania.

All Polish Educational Tour of the Club "Gaja"

Project Officer:: Jacek Bozek, Club Gaja

The educational tour "Poland Road show for Mother Earth" carried out by Club Gaja, took place in eleven Polish towns, from May 21 to June 8, and was seen by approximately one thousand people including individuals from various environmental and ecological organizations, high schools and universities, political institutions, press offices, and towns visited. Some of the towns toured were Kraków, Katowice, Bytom, Radom, Warszawa, Gdansk. The most successful presentations of the tour were in the smaller centers where the sense of community was greatest and where the importance of cooperation with non governmental organizations from the West has had a major influence.

"The Poland Road Show for Mother Earth" consisted of speaker presentations, slide shows, group activities, discussions, and interviews with the media. The presentations lasted one and a half hours and varied in their topics. The first, titled "Pilgrim," was about the spirit of man and his attitude towards the earth. The second, "Ecology in Action" addressed the topic of animal rights and the place of humans in the hierarchy of nature, and finally, "Tropical Forests" was a description of the forests as a natural treasure and their plight today. The idea behind the various presentations was to emphasize the importance of the relationship between the people's local environmental problems and the global environmental issues addressed in the presentations. Club Gaja also hoped to encourage the people to take action by becoming interested and involved in the environmental movement. The local issues covered included topics related to polluted industrial centers and specific health problems that affect residents of the individual places visited. Those involved as presenters sometimes found it difficult to speak to groups of people whose every day lives seem so far removed from such issues as rain forest destruction. Their perseverance was rewarded by the interest displayed by the various audiences in the problems that face different parts of the world and in their understanding and concern about how those problems can in turn affect their own environment and lives.

The meetings provided the opportunity for group activities and discussions. The activities used to set the tone of the tour included meditation, field trips through polluted areas, sharing of food, group dance, and workshops to facilitate knowledge, enthusiasm and competence towards environmental activism. Discussion time provided the participants with the opportunity to express sentiments and share ideas and concerns. Those involved with leading and organizing the tour felt that the discussions and activities were important because they began the process of permanent cooperation with environmental organizations, schools, government, and the media.

"Our group, which was not formally organized at that time, welcomed the Gaja tour very cordially. Many people came to take part in the workshop, and as a result more people are now interested in Ecology. Many have now joined our group. The local response was so positive that Gaja came again to organize a follow-up workshop. Thanks to further cooperation with the Gaja Club we were able to develop into and register as Sowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Ślemi (Association of Friends of the Earth). I think that what Gaja Club does is very valuable and worthy of support."

- Malgorzata Rudue, Friends of the Earth, Chopok

"The meeting (in Lodz) inspired us to establish our own organization 'Stowarzyszenie Kulturalno-Ekologiczne INACZEJ' using the experience of the Gaja Club and we still remain in touch with them."

-Andrzej Kocielek, Stowarzyszenie Kulturalno-Ekologiczne (Cultural & Ecological Association IN ANOTHER WAY), Pabianice, Poland

"The initiative of the Gaja Club was a very good idea. Such activities help integrate the environmental movement. The meeting in Kraków was very well organized from the point of view of its educational impact. It was open to the public, there were films and slides and it had a relatively big audience. I am convinced that such activities are very useful and should be continued in the future."

-Andrzej Zwawa, Zielone Brygady (Green Brigades) Environmentalists' Bulletin, Kraków

NGO SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ON DANUBE DELTA (# 546)

14,766 ECU to support a project with the purpose of obtaining information concerning environmental pollution in the Danube Delta, and then information dissemination to the public, and interested NGOs and governments. Training action will be organized in water, air and sediments quality. Activities will be held on cleaning, marking, planting and reforestation of the present and future National Parks and Reservations, to improve the environmental quality, and to enhance public awareness. // Liviu Matenco, The Ecologist Youth of Romania, 2 Kiseleff Str. Sect. 2, Bucharest, Romania.

PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING ACTION FOR THE BRAILA BOTANIC GARDEN (#591)

1,247 ECU) to support the mobilization of public interest in protected areas through the rehabilitation of the Braila Botanic Garden. A documentary will be produced and there will be T.V. coverage. // Cornel Apostol, ECO-APLEX-024, 259 Rahova Str, Braila 6100, Romania.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE CSFR (#560)

6,575 ECU to support the publication of a consumer guide, posters, and national magazine on organic agriculture; subsidy for courses about organic agriculture; organization of a seminar about marketing of organic products; and legal assistance for private organic farmers. // Boudewijn J. van Elzakker, Foundation for Organic Agriculture in the CSFR, Na Jarove 7, 13 000 Prague, Czech Rep.

SEMINAR FOR JOURNALISTS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE (#485)

4155 ECU to support a series of one day workshops for journalists in Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. The emphasis is on environmental questions and in particular pollution problems. Effective reporting techniques and the role of the media in stimulating public awareness will also be addressed. Speakers will include American reporters and several Central Eastern European journalists who have studied in the USA. // Bud Ward, The Env Health Center, 1029 10th Street, N.W. Suite 401, Washington D.C., USA.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF GREEN BRIGADES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND (# 634)

1,196 ECU to support a special edition of Green Brigades, an environmental NGO newsletter to initiate public discussion concerning sustainable development in Poland. Diverse articles will be on subjects like health, education, transport, labour, psychology, energy, agriculture, urbanization, sociology, science, culture and economy. The publication will be largely distributed among Green Brigades readers, journalists, politicians, members of parliament, institutes and environmental NGOs. // Andrzej M. Zwawa, Editorial Staff "Zielone Brygady", Wydział Chemii Uj, Ingardena 3/100, Krakow 30060, Poland.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY INFORMATION" (#539)

3,820 ECU to support a film dealing with the reasons that make men destroy their natural environment, aiming to raise consumers consciousness and inspire active participation in protecting the environment. // Stanislaw Suchon, The Cultural and Educational Foundation, ul. Marysinska 69/18, 91-850 Lodz, Poland.

THE ENERGY CENTER - EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM (#454)

24,054 ECU to support The Energy Center in Czechoslovakia which will promote the use of renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency and energy conservation by providing information, training, consultation, policy development, and energy education programs for children and teachers. // Milan Janak, Strom Zivota, Prazska 11, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovakia.

VIDEOTEK ENVIRONMENTAL VIDEO LIBRARY (#601)

3,790 ECU to support the strengthening of environmental awareness in the Czech Rep. and Slovakia by increasing the use of films, videos and television for the environment. We will provide access to existing audiovisual resources not otherwise available due to a lack of organized distribution and organization. // Barbora Sadiilkova, Videotek C/O Csop, Slezska 9, Prague 2 120 00, Czech Rep.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CROATIA AND PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF PLASTIC PACKAGING (# 611)

20,764 ECU to support a project with the goal of making plastic packaging of food a policy problem in Croatia and to activate target groups to work on plastics reduction. This goal should be achieved through negotiating and bargaining with target and supporter groups, and through campaigning for maximum publicity. // Inge Perko Separovic, Green Alliance of Croatia, Dordiceva, Zagreb, Croatia.

Earthlinks Foundation Environmental Action Project

Project Officer: Will Rose, Earthlinks Foundation

The first part of this project was a highly creative environmental awareness program that involved Earthlinks staff members and Czech high school students in a 90 minute play that was performed in 9 different schools. The play or group presentation was successful in awakening the interest of the student audience in environmental action; it appealed to their imagination and heart as well as to their intellect. The interweaving of theater, dance, art, song, laughter, facts, figures and discussion aided the group's communication. After the presentation, the student audience was invited to join a year-long environmental action project.

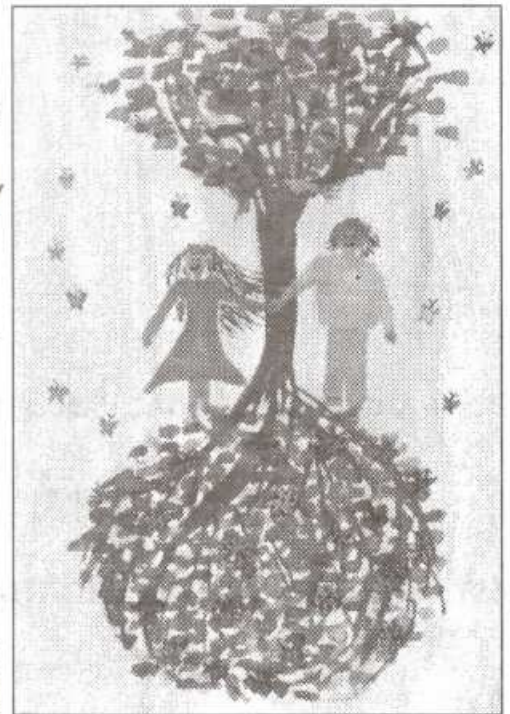
The goals achieved by this action program were defined by the students who came to the first organizational meetings. The students' different interests led them to a variety of projects that included tree planting, video, environmental theater group, newsletter, work with small children, environmental magazine and recycling. The student groups worked independently but were given many opportunities for contact as well as support from adult staff. Two training seminars were held involving resource people from local environmental and educational organizations. The emphasis throughout was on developing the young people's sense of responsibility, and empowering them to make choices, define goals, work effectively in teams, and deal constructively with both conflicts and setbacks. Even though not all of the projects were completely successful, the experiences that the students gained were, nonetheless, valuable.

In addition to the projects organized by students, Earthlinks organized two other events to which students were invited. The first was a trip to Leipzig to visit a "green school" with a cross-curriculum focus on the environment. Twenty students took part and were able to observe a school making a concerted effort to increase awareness of ecological values and to act on that awareness. The second event was a "symposium" on nuclear energy, whose purpose was to acquaint participants with different viewpoints concerning this issue.

In association with the Earthstewards Network from Seattle Washington, USA, Earthlinks sent 6 Czech and Slovak students to take part in the "Cascadia Peace Trees" project. The long-range goal of this project is to create a model for international environmental service involving young people from all countries of the world in a multinational ecological "service corps"; to combine concrete environmental restoration and protection projects with cross-cultural communication and friendship; and to link issues of peace with issues of ecology.

"Maybe the most important thing about Earthlinks for me was the feeling of community. While I have always been a little hesitant in talking to people, in the school visits I had to talk to people, and after a while my feelings of fear went away. I realized that if I really cared about the Earth, and wanted to do something I would have to overcome my fear."

- Jakub Jonás, student participant in Earthlinks



Postcard by Jarmomir Nohavica (above)
Children at a rally in Prague (left)



WORKSHOP ON WATER AND SEWAGE MANAGEMENT, AND WATER PROTECTION IN THE WKRA RIVER CATCHMENT AREA (#481)

3,596 ECU to support the organization of a workshop on water and sewage management, and water protection in the Wkra River catchment area. Lectures are presented by specialists of different branches. // Maria Tatiana Marszczek, "Czysta Wkra" Ecological Foundation, ul. Krzywiskiego 9, Warsaw 02-078, Poland.

Institutional Development:

Projects intended to build the long-term capacity of groups or frameworks to solve environmental challenges.

BUILDING A NUCLEUS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTARY PROJECTS IN ROMANIA (#553)

3,059 ECU to support the development of training sessions and programs for Romanian environmentalists and also the production of materials documenting the sessions. // Rodica C. Stefanescu, National Union of Ecologic Students from Romania, str. Dem 1. Dobrescu nr. 4-6. sector 1. Bucharest, code 70119, Romania.

CONFERENCE: INSTITUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (#479)

12,195 ECU to support the first annual meeting in Eastern Europe of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The meeting addresses the following topics: energy policies and the environment; incentives for renewable energy sources; and organizational structures and instruments of environmental policy in Central and Eastern Europe. // Peszko Grzegorz, EAERE - Polish Division, ul. Rakowicka 27, POK. 155, 31-510 Krakow, Poland.

EDUCATION PROJECT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NGO'S LEADERS (# 653)

4,784 ECU to support lectures, to be attended by representatives of the most important Romanian environmental NGOs as well as by representatives of all TER branches (The Environmental youth from Romania), will cover managing organizational and financial problems and collaboration between the Environmental Ministry and the environmental NGOs. Participants will be selected by democratic criteria. The basic aim is to increase their capability to manage their own organization, to plan and manage projects, and to enhance cooperation between different groups. // Serban Buretea, The Ecologist Youth of Romania, 2 Kiseleff Av. Sector I, Bucharest, Romania.

EKO-MOST 92 (# 600)

1,000 ECU to support the Eko-Most 92 international environmental NGO conference which is designed to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of regional issues faced by the environmental communities of Central and Eastern Europe. The topics to be presented include environmental education, eco-design, energy efficiency and conservation, lobbying, and opportunities for financial and resource assistance. Eko-Most will include practical workshops, as well as lectures and seminars, from both native and foreign experts. // Jandakova Pavla, The Green House Litvinov, P.O. Box 25, Litvinov 43601, Czech Rep.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FOR THE DANUBE DELTA (#456)

2,409 ECU to support a seminar to bring together environmentalists from Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim of raising awareness about the serious environmental problems and inappropriate management of the Danube Delta. // Edmund Ballon, Pro Delta Group, Post Of. 4., P.O.Box 13, 8800 Tulcea, Romania.

GREEN SPIDER COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT (# 641)

19,725 ECU to support the establishment of a computer telecommunication network for Hungarian NGOs by setting up a server computer that will provide e-mail, file transfer and bulletin board services. Connecting the national network to other regional and international networks. Aims of the network are to contribute to the harmonization and coordination of the joint actions and campaigns, and to support the activities of environmental NGOs and promote their cooperation. // Agoston Nagy, Goncol Foundation, P.O. Box 184, Vac 2600, Hungary.

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BULGARIA (#574)

3,596 ECU to support an institutional design project for an environmental protection system focus on the methodologies to provide possible solutions for Central and Eastern Europe. // Dr. Evgueni Popov, Bulgarian Academy of Science, 2 Yuri Gagarin Str., 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria.

Environmental Legislative Drafting for Hungary

Project Officer: Andras Sajo, Institute of Legal Sciences of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary

As the communist era came to a close in Hungary, there was widespread public dissatisfaction with the state of the environment. The lack of an up-to-date self-enforcing legal mechanism was considered to be one of the major causes of environmental degradation. It is therefore not surprising that in 1989 amendments to the constitution, which sanctioned the negotiated transition to democracy, declared that all citizens have the right to a healthy environment. The freely-elected government promised new environmental protection policies and regulations, but difficulties in designing legislation that was acceptable to all parties led to an impasse. In order to overcome this stalemate in the summer of 1991, the Parliamentary Committee on Environment Protection commissioned an independent drafter, Professor Andras Sajo. After the REC's mediation, the government also accepted the idea. The REC not only provided financial support, but the drafting relied upon the materials and ideas produced by the Legislative Task Force of the REC. The drafting committee was non-partisan and included scholars from independent legal research institutes and universities, as well as practicing experts. It is expected that the draft produced will provide an institutional model for the designing of efficient environmental protection for the East-Central European region.

The task of Professor Sajo and the Committee was to establish a comprehensive system of rules, the Environmental Protection Code (EPC), and rule-making to halt environmental degradation as quickly as possible while making improvements in the environment with the most efficient use of resources as possible. The underlying principle of the draft is that the environment represents a human and economic value that should be protected in the constitution. The draft is to provide for the diminishing and harmonizing of the sometimes conflicting values and interests of different parties. The draft was also conceived as a means for the gradual harmonization of the Hungarian environmental protection system with that of the European Community. This harmonization would mean that within ten years the Hungarian system would apply all EC standards. These include the fundamental rights of judicial review and early participation of all citizens. The intention of the drafters was to guarantee the citizen's right-to-know through the freedom of information.

Following initial press publicity, there were 20 NGOs and individuals who expressed interest in participating in the draft process. NGOs expressed their varying concerns in meetings held between September of '91 and May of '92. In collaboration with projects of the REC, non-Hungarian experts contributed comments, and the first version of the independent draft was circulated. Two international workshops took place and several public hearings were organized by the Environmental Protection Committee and held at the Parliament. These hearings marked an historic occasion because about eighty detailed comments from scientists and NGOs, were submitted to the drafters and many of these suggestions and ideas were incorporated in the second draft, which was given to the Minister of Environment in May 1992. The Minister proceeded to endorse the draft with reservations.

In June 1992 a new privatization package was debated in Parliament. The Environmental Protection Committee attempted to include the privatization chapter of the draft in the Privatization Act, but this became impossible because it was thought that environmental issues would have delayed the passing of the legislation. Furthermore, some members of the Ministry of Justice opposed the inclusion of environmental provisions in the original privatization draft because they believed that it was contrary to the concept of branches of law: environmental matters are to be discussed in the environmental code and not in the privatization law which pertains to private law.

The Ministry published a draft for inter-ministerial circulation and public comments on September 29, 1992. The Ministry's draft contained many provisions elaborated by Professor Sajo, and in general, followed the second independent draft. The Ministry accepted the concept of public participation in environmental permit procedures and endorsed the ideas of environmental impact assessment, while giving the power to choose what activities require impact assessment to the government.

The general reaction to the Ministry's draft left some Hungarian NGOs with a negative feeling. However, other groups, who gained an understanding of the importance of law, continued to formulate their own draft that basically follows the plan of the original. Although the original plan was not achieved, NGOs became aware of the importance of legal structures and learned a great deal from the drafting procedures and the importance of the public participation process.

"...the support and help the Regional Environmental Center gave to our Committee has been of outstanding significance. Apart from the expertise provided on concrete issues, the frequent consultations, especially in the field of environmental legislation, have greatly contributed to our work."

- Dr. Nándor Rott, Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament's Environmental Committee

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPERTS' WORKSHOP OF THE INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT "ECOGLASNOST" (#478)

1,870 ECU to support a conference to bring together about 300 Bulgarian NGOs to discuss the following questions: forming new structures; regional cooperation among the organizations; building up a national network for collecting and distributing information; and possibilities for international exchange of information. // Angel Grozdanov, Ecoglasnost, P.O.Box 548, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS (# 613)

1,481 ECU to support consultation based upon the statement made at the National Meeting of Environment Protection, Nature Conservation and Green Movement, in Szeged, February 1992. The consultation - the first of subsequent and regular meetings - is expected to facilitate cooperation in the Hungarian NGO community. The main themes are: - adequate legal framework for environmental protection and nature conservation; - energy policy; - liaison between Ministry of Environment and environmental movements, and the improvement of their cooperation; - debate on most current environmental issues. // Erzsebet Schmuck, National Society of Conservationists, Kolto u. 21, Budapest 1121, Hungary.

PUBLISHING THE "WORKBOOK ON PUTTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN INTO ACTION: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMMING" (#435)

1,587 to support the publishing of the book, and distributing it to all NGOs concerned in environmental protection and economic development in Romania. // Daniel C. Butoi, Calea Vacaresti 328, Bl.9C, Sc.1., Et.1, ap.5, Sector 4, Bucharest, Romania.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL NGO'S IN CROATIA AFTER THE WAR (#425)

9,803 ECU to support research of the impact of the war on the civil society. Development of a strategy to reconstruct the environment and the environmental NGOs in Croatia. Publication and public discussion of the results. // Vesna Terselic, Green Action, Komobolova 11, Zagreb 41020 NOVI, Croatia.

ROMANIAN ECOLOGICAL NGO CONFERENCE (#480)

1,470 ECU to support a conference in Sovata-Bai, with the participation of about 30 Romanian and some foreign environmental NGOs. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the role of NGOs in the Romanian ecological scene, planning of future strategies, improvement of cooperation, and building of an information network. // Istvan Sido, Rhododendron Eco-Club, P.O.Box 317, 4300 Tirgu Mures, Romania.

SOS BLACK SEA (#432)

5,200 ECU to support the organization of a workshop with the aim of making an inventory of the knowledge of environmental NGOs about the pollution of the Black Sea, and their suggestions for improving the situation; discussion of the possibilities for a common campaign that could lead to the signing of a Black Sea convention by the countries around the Sea. // Mara Silina, FOE-EAST, Greenway, P.O.Box 163, 814 99 Bratislava, Slovakia.

THE PROGRAM FOR SAVING AND PROTECTING THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UPPER NAREW VALLEY (#508)

8,696 ECU to support the task of elaborating the uniform, complex program of reconstructing the ecological equilibrium in Narew Valley. The purpose of the program is to prepare principles of protection for this Valley. // Bielicki Boleslaw, Social Ecological Institute, ul. Stoleczna 25/40, 15-879 Bialystok, Poland.

VIENNESE CONFERENCE ON "THE ECOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF EASTERN EUROPE" (#453)

14,063 ECU to support a conference with the goal of elaborating common political strategies of NGOs in the East and West, promotion of cooperation between them, coordination of Eastern NGOs in order to minimize the possible negative environmental impacts of Western investments in Central and Eastern Europe, and particularly transboundary environmental problems. // Alexander Egit, Global 2000, Hahngasse 15/14, 1090 Vienna, Austria.

The Regional Environmental Center does not necessarily endorse the final results represented by the projects it supports.

Finances & Operations

During 1992 the Center celebrated its second anniversary of operations.

The total amount of support pledged to the Center for 1992 was ECU 3,489,347 of which the Center received during the year ECU 3,306,005. Total support received from the time of opening in September 1990 to December 31, 1992 is ECU 8,021,505. If no further funding comes forth, the Center will have received about ECU 11 million between 1990 and 1993.

The temporary scare of insolvency of the AVBank in July of 1992, where all of the Center's funds were deposited till February, 1992, proved the wisdom of our earlier decision to diversify our holdings to two banks: Operating funds are held in Hungary, short term deposits and some operating funds are in an Austrian bank.

As at December 31, 1992, the Center held cash in banks, on hand and in Term Deposits in the amount of ECU 4,790,329, Current liabilities in accounts payable and in grants payable for the year ending at December 31, 1992, was ECU 689,875 as per Ernst & Young audited financial statements for the same time period. The Center has no long term debts.

The financial and operational logistics of the Outreach Offices (in Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria) proved to be very complex: the registration requirements, opening of bank accounts, transferring of funds,

finding and establishing of offices with telephone connections, the transfer of equipment from REC-Budapest, such as computers, fax machines, printers, to name only a few. During the year all bookkeeping was kept and consolidated at REC-Budapest for the four offices. All local offices have been visited and an in-house audit completed by REC-Budapest finance staff.

During 1992 the finance staff began reviewing financial reports filed by Grantees, and helped finalize the financial filing requirements policy, as requested by the Grantees. During the 1991 USAID audit of the Center recommendations were made which, when put into place, have strengthened the financial and administrative controls. The Center will continue with its policies of open hiring and the adoption of strong conflict of interest rules, as well as the separation of program decisions from the financial controls' needs.

The Center is still looking for a space solution, and in this effort the Hungarian Ministry of the Environment is providing the lead and guidance.

As stated in the 1991 Annual Report, our efforts in 1992 has focussed on fine-tuning our financial analysis. Finance staff have been providing Expenditure statements for the Center's Program areas monthly. We hope that this annual report and our other publications provide a high degree of transparency of our operations.

From the Operations Manager:

Revenues: During 1992 the REC received HUF 325,473,364 (or about USD 3.8 million) support from pledged contributions. The NZD 45,0000 (HUF 1,418,815) contribution of New Zealand was earmarked for the Eco-agriculture Workshop held at Kaposvar, Hungary.

Expenses:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Outreach, Clearinghouse, Task Force PROGRAMS | 39,199* |
| Grants Programs and Grant Awards | 67,586 |
| Administrative costs** | <u>59,599</u> |
| Total Cash Expenditures | HUF 166,384 |
| Add: Depreciation on Administrative Assets: | <u>15,898</u> |
| Sub-Total | HUF 182,282 |
| Less: Foreign Exchange gains | HUF (20,694) |
| Total Expenditures for 1992 | HUF 161,588 (USD 1,887,710) |

**Admin. Expenditures Detailed

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Salaries, benefits, Soc. Taxes | HUF 22,009 |
| Rent, repair, insurance | "" 9,996 |
| Office supplies, postage, telephone/fax | "" 8,279 |
| Professional Consultants' fees | "" 10,482 |
| Travel, Board Trustees and Staff | "" 3,143 |
| Printing & Publication of the "Bulletin" | "" 1,988 |
| Other (bank fees, temporary help, non-cash expenditures) | <u>"" 3,702</u> |
| Total: | HUF 59,599 |

* All amounts in HUF 000's

During 1993, we will receive the last of the pledged funds, and must therefore begin to look for more funding.. Considering that REC's yearly planned budget is about ECU 3 million, the amount of money we now have on deposit, and earing interest, REC should sustain operations through 1993, 1994 and part of 1995.

Dr. Judith L. Bezeredi
Operations Manager

Report of Independent Auditors

Ernst & Young

To the REC Board of Trustees
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe,

We have audited the statement of assets, liabilities and foundation resources of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (The Foundation) as of December 31, 1991, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in foundation resources and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing.

In our opinion, the financial statements, expressed in Hungarian Forints, present fairly the financial position of the Foundation at December 31, 1992, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with internationally accepted accounting standards.

Ernst & Young
Budapest, Hungary
February 3, 1993

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Foundation Resources

| | <i>December 31,</i> 1992 | <i>December 31,</i> 1991 |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| CASH IN BANKS AND ON HAND | 75,176 | 37,417 |
| TERM DEPOSITS | 409,680 | 257,756 |
| OTHER CURRENT ASSETS | 548 | 2,613 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 485,404 | 297,786 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSETS, NET | 31,714 | 43,200 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 1,353 | 1,467 |
| | 518,471 | 342,453 |
| Liabilities and Foundation Resources: | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES | 4,403 | 4,471 |
| PROVISION FOR GRANTS PAYABLE | 65,502 | 71,250 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 69,905 | 75,721 |
| FOUNDATION RESOURCES: | | |
| UNEXPENDED AND UNRESTRICTED | 416,852 | 223,532 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSET FUND | 31,714 | 43,200 |
| | 448,566 | 266,732 |
| | 518,471 | 342,453 |

(All amounts in HUF 000's)

As of December 31, 1992 • All figures in HUF 000s • ECU 1 is approximately HUF 100

REC Supporters

Beneficiaries:

Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia.

Financial Donations

From September 1990 to Present

| <i>Amount Country</i> | <i>Approx. ECU pledged</i> | <i>Duration equivalent</i> | <i>of donation</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| AUSTRIA | 4 MILLION ATS | 280,000 ECU | 1 YEAR |
| CANADA | 1.2 MILLION CAD | 1,115,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |
| DENMARK | 1 MILLION DKK | 125,000 ECU | PLEDGE |
| EUROPEAN COMMUNITY | 3 MILLION ECU | 3,000,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |
| FINLAND | 2.1 MILLION FIM | 400,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |
| HUNGARY | 49,375,000 HUF ¹ | 580,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |
| JAPAN | 2.1 MILLION ² USD | 680,000 ECU | 1 YEAR |
| THE NETHERLANDS | 1.5 MILLION NLG | 650,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |
| NEW ZEALAND | 45,000 ³ NZD | 18,750 ECU | 1 YEAR |
| NORWAY | 1 MILLION NOK | 120,900 ECU | 2 YEARS |
| UNITED STATES | 4,813,834 USD | 4,085,000 ECU | 3 YEARS |

- 1.) THE ONLY COUNTRY OF THE CEE REGION TO DATE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORTS THE CENTER
- 2.) 500,000 USD OF THE JAPANESE DONATION IS EARMARKED FOR RESTRICTED USE
- 3.) THE NEW ZEALAND DONATION WAS FOR AN ECO-AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

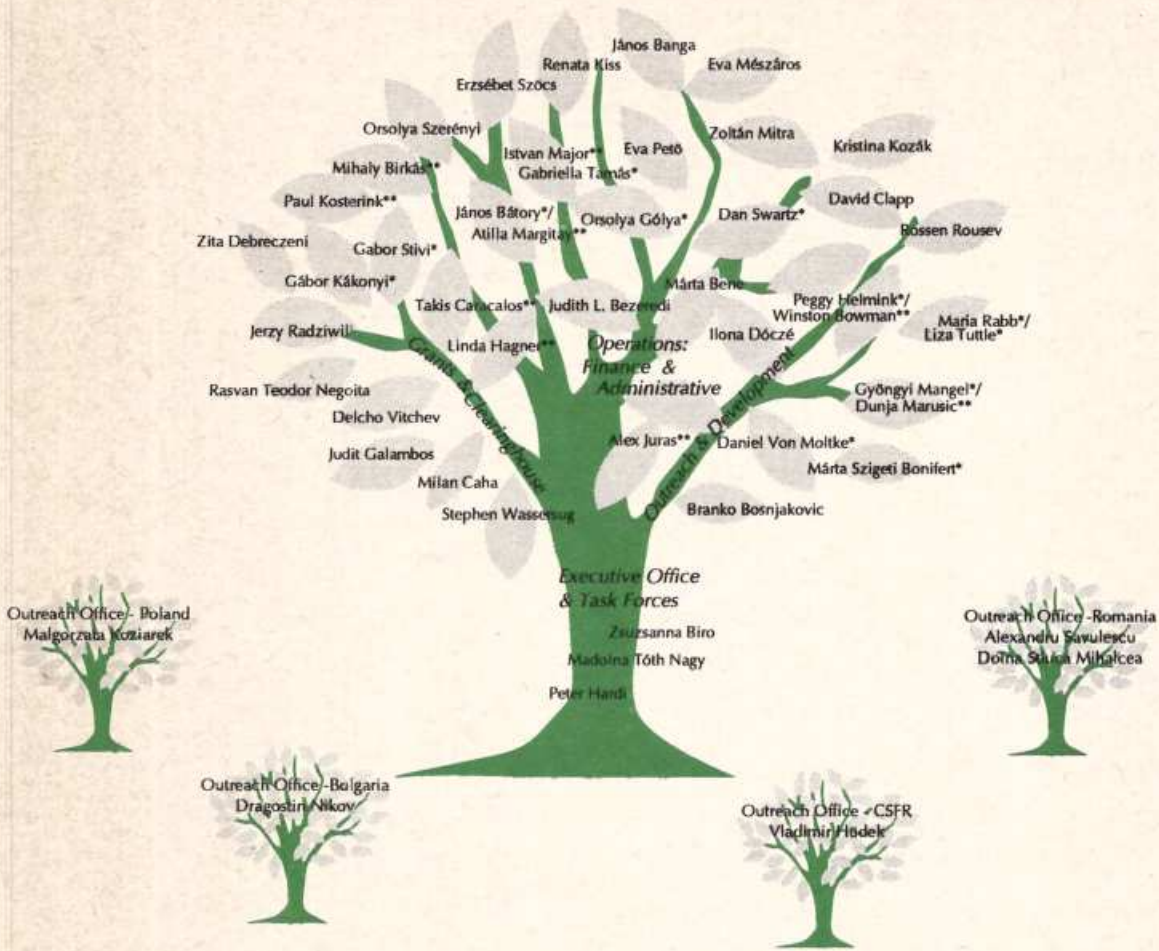
Secondments

The Center is grateful for the support of the European Commission and the governments of the United States, the Netherlands, Canada, and Germany who supported the Center with secondments of managers. These managers and staff members, from the Ministry of the Environment-Canada, the Commission of the European Community, the Netherland's Ministry of Environment, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Peace Corps, and the Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety-Germany have provided important Western experience in all the activities of the Center. The Center would especially like to thank the government of Germany for its secondment in 1992, as this was a new donation and Germany's first direct involvement in the Center. It is expected that the continued support of these governments will make the Center a vital institution in the region.

Volunteers

The Center could not have operated as effectively without the hard work, dedication, and energy of our volunteers. We especially thank the following persons: Alan Eisenberg, James Dailey, George B. Donaldson, Jean Christopher Hyvert, Keith Littler, László Bencze, Lionel Morvan, Mark Wolfe, Mike Lee, Nick Vaczek, Olga Maclellan, Suzanne Billharz, Valea Mincheva, and Valeria Belinszki.

REC Staff



Both full-time and contracted employees as of Dec. 31, 1992

*Was present in 1992 but not on Dec. 31, 1992

**Was present on Dec 31, 1992, but not for the full year.

Other Donations

The following entities have provided the REC with equipment or pro bono services:

- American Institute of Chemical Engineers** • Publications
- Austroplan** • Technical assistance
- Austrian Federal Government** • CEDAR computer center in Vienna
- BBN (Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc. USA)** • Tom Fortmann, computer specialist and software
- Booz, Allen & Hamilton (USA)** • Office automation systems development; Special thanks to Liam Donohue and Kelly Kennedy for their hard work
- DEC (Digital Equipment Corp.)** • GIS Workstation
- ERDAS Inc. (USA)** • PC ERDAS VGA software
- ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute)** • GIS Software
- Geometria Systems House, Ltd., Hungary** • Geographical Information Standard Database (digital maps of Hungary)
- IBM** • Budapest-Vienna SNA line for 3 years
- Kapsch Aktiengesellschaft (Austria)** • Telephone installation
- Northern Telecom (Canada)** • Telephone system
- Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison** • Legal consulting for Legislative Task Force



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