

Overview

- **RECOMMEND – new initiative in eco-management & eco-innovation**
RECOMMEND - an EU funded project run by 9 partners from 8 EU Member States – has successfully started!
- **RECOMMEND best practice study** on regional eco-management and eco-innovation is available.
[Free download!](#)
- **RECOMMEND: Kick off of Phase 2** took place in České Budějovice in June 2012
- **RECOMMEND: New project flyer is available** – [Free download!](#)

To get further information, please visit the project website at: www.recommendproject.eu



„Dear Reader,

One of the EU's priorities is to foster efficient, greener and sustainable use of resources. Based on that vision 9 partners from 8 European Union Member States have established a common international project called "RECOMMEND". It commenced on 1st January 2012 and its lead partner is the Lower Austrian Regional Government, Office Department of environmental and energy economics.

The target of RECOMMEND is to provide enterprises and public authorities, information on instruments and funding schemes for new ecological measures in the business sector. The main output of the cooperation will be 8 Regional Implementation Plans (RIP). Each RIP will describe a ready to implement policy instrument for the fostering of eco-management and/or eco-innovation in the respective regions.

On behalf of the project team I am very pleased to introduce you to our 1st RECOMMEND newsletter. Enjoy reading and keep in mind "Investing in green policy & economy means generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union!"

Ingrid Rozhon
project manager



Picture: 1st Working Summit, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

RECOMMEND: new EU initiative in Eco-Management & Eco-Innovation

The EU funded project RECOMMEND has successfully started. Its target is to foster eco-management and eco-innovation at regional level.

One of the EU's priorities is to foster efficient, greener and sustainable use of resources. Based on that vision and under the lead partnership of the Lower Austrian Regional Government, Office Department of Environmental and Energy Economics (AT) 9 partners from 8 EU Member States started to implement the EU funded project RECOMMEND on 1st January 2012. The main objective of RECOMMEND is to improve regional policies with regard to environmental sustainability in their economic policy. The main output of the RECOMMEND project will be 8 Regional Implementation Plans (RIP). Each RIP will describe a ready to implement policy instrument for the fostering of eco-management and/or eco-innovation in the respective regions. Only a common approach in fostering eco-management and eco-innovation systems at a regional level will play a significant role in Europe's ambition to achieve a low emission economy where economic development is uncoupled from the use of natural resources. The RECOMMEND project partners are convinced that economic growth and environmental protection can go hand in hand.

Based on the RECOMMEND good practice study and (inter)regional information exchange among RECOMMEND target groups concrete regional adopted recommendations and approved instruments such as funding schemes will be developed during the lifetime of the project. This input will offer regional authorities and public intermediaries a set of proposals and ideas around how they can foster eco-management and how they can use eco-management as a lever for enhanced eco-innovation in their region.

The RECOMMEND partners are:

- Lower Austrian Regional Government, Office Department of Environmental and Energy Economics (Austria)
- Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)
- Ekoport (Czech Republic)
- Tartu Regional Energy Agency (Estonia)
- Province of Ascoli Piceno (Italy)
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (Poland)
- Local Energy Agency Spodnje Podravje (Slovenia)
- Opportunity Peterborough (United Kingdom)
- UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (United Kingdom)

RECOMMEND is an INTERREG IVC project running from 1st January 2012 until 31st December 2014. It is co-financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 1.089.996,68 million EUR. The total project budget is € 1.352.264,80.

Further Information: www.recommendproject.eu

RECOMMEND Best Practice Study on Regional Eco-Management and Eco-Innovation Support Schemes in EUROPE.

The main target of RECOMMEND is to deliver new and improved policy instruments to improve eco-management & eco-innovation. Based on that objective the project partners contracted Greenovate – an independent European expert group located in Brussels – to prepare a best practice study. The objective of this study is to screen examples of successful regional good practices in eco-management and eco-innovation, with the aim of allowing comparability between tools and developing an understanding of the status quo of the partner regions. The study additionally provides valuable hints on how to transfer interesting good policy practices between the regions and how to understand which aspects of a policy practice can be transferred or requires adaptation.

A total of 15 case studies have been collected and examined: nine submitted by the RECOMMEND partner regions and an additional six were collected from non-partner regions. A detailed questionnaire was sent to different regional experts in the field of eco-management & eco-innovation. Greenovate analysed the questionnaires and tried to answer the following three key questions:

- What are the main similarities / differences in the eco-management and eco-innovation support schemes of the partner regions and beyond?
- What are the characteristics of a successful eco-management and eco-innovation support scheme?
- What are the implications for the RECOMMEND project?

The study results aim to inspire regional players to implement similar policy instruments in their regions. One significant recommendation is that it is enormously important to be aware of the fact that a policy instrument cannot be transferred in its entirety into a different regional context. Each good practice has to be broken down into its different constituting elements or aspects which then can be transferred and adopted to a new regional or local context. This was confirmed by the regions participating in this study. They have all pointed out that their good practices can be transferred in a relatively easy manner but that attention has to be paid as to a careful adaptation to the regional context.

Free of charge:

download of RECOMMEND Best practice study: www.recommendproject.eu/news.htm



RECOMMEND: Kick off of Phase 2 in České Budějovice in June 2012

Regional stakeholders and policy makers had been invited to thematic talks to share and develop ideas with project partners

On 26th and 27th June 2012 RECOMMEND held its 1st Working Summit in České Budějovice (CZ). This meeting finalised officially the first project phase (Jan – June 2012) and initiated the 2nd (June-Dec 2012). The main focus of project phase 1 was to analyse different existing good practice examples in eco-management and eco-innovation in Europe. A best practice study was presented and discussed at the 1st Working Summit. The study offers great insight into what's going on in different European regions and how they try to solve the current environmental and economic challenges.

Based on this study the 2nd project phase could easily be set up. The main focus of the new working phase is that the project partners will invite their regional stakeholders and policy makers to thematic talks which will be organised between Sept- Dec 2012. At such meetings the project partners will share the experiences they have gained from the Best Practice Study, develop new ideas with them and try to gain their commitment to prepare new ecological measures to benefit the business community. In order to plan such thematic talks effectively and efficiently the Lead Partner organised three working group sessions within the Summit. The RECOMMEND partners were divided into three working groups. Each group scrutinised and discussed the good practice study according to the following topics:

- Working topic 1: Which good practices or aspects are transferable?
- Working topic 2: Which good practices or aspects can be implemented in your region?
- Working topic 3: How will we organise the thematic talks in the specific regions?

The main purpose of these sessions was

- To discuss the good practice screening
- To specify the transferability of individual cases
- To identify the feasibility of implementation in specific regions
- To describe the practice arrangements to start the activity

The results of the thematic talks will be presented at the 2nd Working Summit which will be held in United Kingdom (Peterborough) between 27th- 28th November 2012 and will be published in our next RECOMMEND newsletter (January 2013).

More information about the 1st Working Summit in Ceske Budejovice: www.recommendproject.eu/events



RECOMMEND NEWS



RECOMMEND is an INTERREG IVC project running from 1st January 2012 until 31st December 2014. RECOMMEND provides enterprises and public authorities information on instruments and funding schemes for new ecological measures in the business sector.

For further information about the RECOMMEND project, please contact:



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