

Final report for INTERREG IIC operations

Index	4E0008I
Acronym	RECORA
Title of the Operation	Renewable Energy Cooperation of Rural Areas
Lead partner institution	Communal Waste Management Association of Tulln
Lead partner country	AT
Start date	01/03/2005
End date	31/12/2007

1. Summary of the operation's activities

1.1 Please provide an overview of the main activities undertaken during the lifetime of your operation. The description should develop the information already provided in the last progress report. It should also cover issues related to management/coordination and dissemination. (maximum 3000 characters)

References:

Last progress report, II. Activity Report 1. Summary of the operation's activities so far

While the 1st reporting period of implementation was dedicated mainly to management&coordination issues of the project,the 2nd period was characterised by activities focussing on analyses of regional potentials,transfer of know-how& exchange of experience.The 3rd reporting period of RECORA already showed first results.The 4th reporting period was dedicated mainly to coordination between project partners&work groups as well as to the further development of the first results.Based on the work groups' findings project ideas in the partner regions,identified in cooperation with the Local Focus Groups(LFGs),also were further developed.The 5th reporting period was committed to the fine-tuning of the already existing results&draft outputs.During the 6th reporting period the main outputs of the project were finalised and the closing conference took place in Tulln(14-15 Oct.07).

Among others,a common database on RE projects,model marketing plan,common model business plan as well as a technical handbook of generic guidelines were elaborated by the work groups.The partners worked out various tools for data collection in each region,reported on progress&results and concentrated on data collection on current legal,administrative&financial conditions as well as on the technical evaluation of status quo&potentials in each region.To involve local stakeholders in the project,7 LFGs were established and local meetings organised to disseminate the ideas of RECORA in the partner regions.13 international project meetings took place(8 SG+WG-meetings,5 Coordination meetings).During the SG&WG meetings tools& outputs were elaborated and findings&results discussed.The coordination meetings were dedicated to coordination&communication among the partners.If required open issues and hot topics could be discussed.Several field trips to best practice examples completed the project meetings.As the RECORA partners consider it important to inform as many people as possible about the issue of renewable energy,there were several public relations activities,e.g.stands on various fairs,press conferences,presentations, website,etc. Newsletters and brochures,which were also published on the website,were created to rise public awareness for the project and the topic of RE.Exchange of experience was not only designed for the partners but also for the public.Thus a biogas&compost training was arranged for Greek LFG members as well as 2 Austrian-Hungarian PR-WS for implementing a selective waste collection&recycling system in Gödöllő.From the 1st meeting on the RECORA partners stayed in permanent contact with other projects in the field and created a network with RegioSustain,NorthSeaBioEnergy(IIIB)and CosCo,which led to mutual articles in project newsletters and participation in project meetings.A printed brochure and a CD-Rom,containing the collected works of RECORA (all outputs,presentations,etc.),were produced to document the project's achievements.

1.2 Please describe any major changes/problems in the implementation of activities that may have occurred during the operation's lifetime and the reasons/solutions/impacts of these changes/problems. (maximum 2000 characters)

References:

Progress reports, II. Activity Report 7. Problems encountered and solutions found / proposed

The reporting periods 2/05 and 1/06 showed that data collection in Attica is more difficult than expected because a lot of data (e.g. data on different waste amounts, on RE) are not available. Thus 2 rounds of waste analyses & material flow analyses in general (e.g. poultry manure, loppings) were organised in Aug. 06 and March 07. Then the data collection could be finished.

The cooperation with project partner Zala turned out to be non-satisfying. After several thorough discussions as well as oral and written admonitions through the LP, the partnership of RECORA decided to exclude Zala from the project because of non-fulfillment of objectives according to § 13 of the partnership agreement by 31 Dec. 06. The request for changes of the partnership was approved by the INTERREG III C East Steering Committee on 6 March 07. The remaining budget of Zala was allocated to partner Gödöllő and spent for additional activities and outputs.

The mutual accounting for services with project partner Attica turned out to be impossible as this partner allegedly doesn't pay non-Greek invoices. The LP sent a letter to Mr. Bolanos (JTS East) asking for help to find a satisfying solution. Despite a written communication by Mr. Bolanos in this regard, the problem remained unsolved till the end of the project.

1.3. Please assess the participation of all partners in the operation. Describe any major changes/problems in the partnership that may have occurred during the operation's lifetime and the reasons/solutions/impacts of these changes/problems. Were your partners active? Did they attract other regional actors to the operation events? (maximum 2000 characters)

References:

Progress reports, II. Activity Report 6. Involvement of partners

Generally speaking the cooperation between the RECORA partners was well-running. All partners have been involved in the implementation and realisation of the operation. Most of the partners contributed in the implementation of RECORA with their experience in the field of RE. Thus most of the project meetings were completed with field trips to see existing examples of RE projects. The meetings were partially opened to interested citizens and local/regional decision makers. Local/regional experts were invited as guest speakers, too. The Communal Waste Management Association Tulln as Lead Partner was in charge of the overall project management and coordination. The Work Group team leaders (Weilerbach, Attica, Gödöllő) managed the work in the work groups on the basis of the results of data collection in previous reporting periods. The partners were engaged in collecting and updating already collected data as well as in working together with their Local Focus Groups. All partners expressed their interest in continuing the exchange of experience beyond the project's duration. Partner Zala was excluded from the project because of non-fulfillment of objectives according to § 13 of the partnership agreement.

2. Summary of the operation's achievements

2.1 Please describe the main achievements of your operation. Please explain to what extent the overall objective and sub-objectives of the operation have been achieved? (maximum 3000 characters)

References:

Application form, 1.3 Objectives of the operation,

Progress reports, II. Activity Report 2. General progress of the operation towards the set objectives and sub-objectives

Cooperation was intensified among project partners as well as regional/local decision makers, entrepreneurs, farmers, investors & experts by bringing together the resource supply side & the energy demand side in 7 established LFGs. Through the innovative involvement of key players they were motivated to contribute actively in the planning & implementation process of RE projects. To enhance the utilization of RES in innovative & viable ways & to focus on robust energy resource utilization, comprehensive data collection on decisive parameters influencing RE use took place in each partner region. The knowledge & understanding of these parameters was increased among project partners & regional/local key players. These parameters were considered in the planning processes for local RE projects in the partner regions. There were 6 SG-meetings (80 part.), 7 press conferences (3x Tulln, 2x Gödöllő, 1x Trebon, 1x Weilerbach), & 7 int. WG-meetings per WG to work on key issues concerning project implementation. At a meeting local project & financial managers were instructed in their duties. 5 Coordination meetings (GR: Feb. 06, AT: July 06 + Feb. 07, HU: Oct. 06, CZ: June 07) were dedicated to coordination & communication among PP. A common database on RE project types & models as well as 2nd drafts of a common model business plan & a generic handbook for techn. guidelines were elaborated. A biogas & compost training took place in Attica. After 2 Austrian-Hungarian PR-WS a handbook for the implementation of selective waste collection & recycling in Gödöllő was elaborated. To disseminate the project's ideas & results a website (www.recora.net) was designed and newsletters, folders & bags produced and distributed. PP2 adapted its permanent showroom of small scale demonstration models of RE production facilities (opening ceremony in Oct. 07) acc. to the feedback of PP, LFG-members & other experts. All these activities helped increasing knowledge in PP regions and led to enormous exchange of knowledge, which will be continued beyond the project's duration.

2.2 How has interregional cooperation contributed to these achievements? (maximum 2000 characters)

The partnership of RECORA consisted of partners with expertise in different fields of RE. So, for example the LP has valuable expertise in RES project development, while the Municipality of Gödöllő has the backing of advanced technology experts in waste management. The Municipality of Weilerbach had carried out a highly referenced pilot study "Zero Emission Village Weilerbach" initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Rhineland-Palatinate and has valuable experience in the RE field. It has collaborated with IfaS on innovative projects highly respected by EU local development experts. The Regional Secretariat of Attica, even though it has a strong interest in innovative projects, has had little experience in the RE sector. It considers sustainable development as high priority and was committed to RECORA in order to enter the RES sector. The Agricultural Technical School Tulln assisted the agricultural municipalities of Attica to engage alternative farming practices as well as bioenergy production for heating/cooling greenhouses. Attica profited immensely from the wide practical & technological experience of Development Agency Trebon. Overall, the RECORA partners carried a wide range of expertise in RE practices and, thus, were able to develop very useful assessment & implementation tools for many EU players. Without interregional cooperation the project activities could not have been financed and thus could not have taken place. The extensive exchange of experience & transfer of knowledge that has taken place would have been impossible without interregional cooperation.

2.3 What other benefits / lessons learnt / added value did you obtain through interregional cooperation? (maximum 2000 characters)

Due to interregional cooperation concrete plans for pilot projects could be achieved in each partner region. Not only the less experienced partners profited by the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge that took place in the project. Also the more experienced partners, with special expertise in fields of RES and waste management were "infected" by the enthusiasm of citizens and less experienced partners. This led to reconsidering hang-up opinions and positions and brought a fresh breeze into their work. The meeting of different cultures and mentalities showed that facts, which are taken for granted in one country, are not that self-evident in another country. Thus, besides the exchange of experience also a cultural exchange took place.

3. Finance

3.1 Please assess the budget of the operation. Describe any major changes/problems in the budget implementation that may have occurred during the operation's lifetime and the reasons/solutions/impacts of these changes/problems. Was your budget forecast appropriate for the activities you planned? Did you use all funds you were granted? If not, please summarize the reasons. (maximum 3000 characters)

References:

Application form, AIV.0 – AIV.4

Progress reports, III. Financial Report

Progress reports, III.0 Financial Report by partner

Progress reports, AIII.1 – AIII.3

Major changes in the budget had to take place by the end of 2006/beginning of 2007 as PP 5 (Regional Development Agency Zala/HU) was excluded from the project due to non-fulfillment of objectives by 31 December 2006. The remaining budget of PP 5 was allocated to PP 6 (Municipality of Gödöllő/HU) for additional activities. In the course of writing the Application Form for Changes the total budget of the operation was slightly reallocated.

The certificates of expenditure of PP 8 (Regional Secretariat of Attica) were delayed for a very long time. Thus controlling the overall budget was extremely difficult and the operation's total budget showed underspending. Only at the very end of the project PP 8 was able to submit the missing certificates (1/2006,2/2006,1/2007 and 2/2007). Integrating these expenditure into the total project expenditure showed that all funds were used and the total budget overspent.

4. Detailed description of the operation's achievements

4.1 Summary of the outputs

Please name and describe the main outputs of your operation, using the structure of the list below.

References:

Application form, 1.4 Expected outputs, results and impacts of the operation,

Application form, AIII.1 – AIII.5,

Progress reports, II.0 Indicators,

Progress reports, II.1 – II.5 Activity Report

Outputs	No	Description
Interregional events to exchange and disseminate experience		
- Conferences	1	International Conference in Attica (May 2007)
- Seminars / workshops / meetings	41	SG + WG-meetings, Coordination Meetings, LFG-meetings, Austrian-Hungarian PR-Workshops for implementation of a selective waste collection & recycling system in Gödöllő, network meetings with RegioSustain, NorthSeaBioEnergy and CosCo The meetings assisted the exchange of experience and knowledge, the elaboration of different tools and outputs as well as the implementation of the project.
- Staff exchange	2	One Greek (Alex Katsaitis, July 2006) and one Hungarian (Zita Karascony, Nov. 2006) person worked at Communal Waste Management Association Tulln in order to learn about the Austrian waste management system and to circulate the information and experience gained during their staff exchange time.
- Study visits	6	field trips to best practice examples (e.g. Güssing, Mureck, Plus-Energy-House in Maria Ponsee/AT, etc.) in the field of RE completed several project meetings

- Other events	7	press conferences
Identification of good practices...		
- ...related to the management/ coordination of the operation		
- ...related to the content/theme of the cooperation	7	Güssing/AT, Mureck/AT, sewage treatment plant in CZ, biggest photovoltaics installation in HU, ZAK - Zweckverband Abfallbeseitigung Kaiserslautern in DE, Plus-Energy-House in AT, biogas&compost plants in AT
- ...related to		
Project specific outputs:		
- Training courses	1	biogas & compost training for Greek LFG-members (Attica, March 2007)
- Good practice guides / handbooks	7	Guideline on the organisation of Local Focus Groups, PR-handbook for the implementation of a selective waste collection & recycling system, Handbook for generic technical guidelines, Marketing plan including comparative study, Database on RE projects, model Business Plans for RES projects, composting guide for rural municipalities in Attica

<p>- Policy recommendations</p>		
<p>- Studies / surveys / analyses</p>	8	<p>Greece: 2 waste analyses in Attica, Collection & analysis of parameters & conditions for promotion of RES, Data collection & assessment of current economic conditions in the region of Attica, Status & development prospects for RES</p> <p>Hungary: batch tests with seaweed, batch tests with chicken manure, burning tests with different RES</p> <p>Czech Republic: study on local current conditions for the development of RE projects</p>
<p>- Web / IT tools</p>	1	<p>project website (www.recora.net)</p>
<p>- Methodologies</p>		
<p>- Other outputs</p>	229	<p>project logo, project folders presenting aims, interim and final results of RECORA, project posters, newsletters, brochures on RES, press articles, DVDs about project meetings, project documentation brochure, project documentation CD-Rom</p>

4.2 Summary of results and impacts by partner

For each partner, please define the main results and impacts of the INTERREG IIIC operation. Use the structure of the list below to answer the following questions: Have existing regional policy methods or approaches been improved? Have new regional policy methods or approaches been introduced? Have political and institutional structures related to regional policy been changed? These results/impacts should be related to improvements of the effectiveness of policies and instruments, expanded effects of Structural Funds interventions, solved problems, exploited potentials, etc.

References:

Application form, AI.2 Relevance of the partnership

Partner	Results	Impacts
1	GVA was the LP with its typical responsibilities. It transferred the experience it has gained as a responsible and innovative user of waste residuals (separation, recycling and use of waste as RES) through new technologies and innovative management procedures for 25 municipalities (97.000 pop.) and training public admin. RECORA assisted GVA to earn knowledge from other innovative applications in the renewable energy sector.	Because of the results of RECORA the "Kleinregion Wagram", located within the area of GVA, made the political decision to become an energy-autonomous region. GVA and the outputs of RECORA will assist this development. In doing extensive public relations (newspaper articles, brochures, stands at fairs and exhibitions) awareness for the topic of renewable energies and motivation to contribute in RE projects was increased at the citizens.
2	The Agricultural Technical School Tulln has a great depth of knowledge in alternative farming techniques while it engages in state-of-the-art biomass practices. Also, it was given the opportunity to promote small-scale demonstration models of RE installations. A permanent showroom of these small-scale demonstration models was installed, open for the interested public, to carry on awareness raising beyond project duration.	As the cooperation between the Agricultural Technical School and GVA Tulln is not only limited to the operation RECORA, the school will also provide the "Kleinregion Wagram" with expertise and knowledge in order to assist its development towards energy-autonomy. The LFS Tulln also influenced public opinion by organising regular energy seminars.
3	The Institute for Applied Material Flow Management (IfaS) is used to handle various renewable energy conditions and to interact with key persons from communal level, agriculture, handcraft/industry, biogas strategy (i.e. biogas company, biogas park) for Weilerbach. Thus this cooperation helped the Municipality of Weilerbach in achieving the below mentioned results and impacts.	
4	Not regional policy methods could be improved but the basis for decision finding by offering personal capacity for analysing the status quo and the regional biomass potentials. The question about the existence of suitable sites for a biogas plant in the municipality of Weilerbach was analysed in a holistic examination. Beside the aspect of land use planning and other	The basis for decision making was improved by delivering objective and sufficient information about the topic in discussion. The municipal council had been aware of the real site potential for biogas. The interested farmers were implicated in the process analysing and location finding. Although there was no positive decision for the construction of the biogas plant by the farmers in 2007, the relationship between the municipal administration and the farmers was

	<p>legal conditions, the topic for the municipal council in fact, the subject of economic efficiency was also dealt with. The procedure in data collection and analysis was coordinated with the concerned farmers, who were interested in building a biogas plant. Insofar the results are comprehensible and lucent.</p>	<p>untroubled and conversation on a clinical level is possible at anytime in the future.</p>
5	<p>excluded from the projects due to non-fulfillment of objectives acc. to §13 of the partnership agreement by 31 Dec 2006</p>	<p>excluded from the project due to non-fulfillment of objectives acc. to §13 of the partnership agreement by 31 Dec. 2006</p>
6	<p>The Municipality of Gödöllő carried out - with the help of external experts - the ground work for the planning of a combined biomass heat and power plant in its technology park. The municipality also examined the possibility of using the waste-heat of the existing compost plant at its waste treatment centre for the cooling of animal cadavers and tested the possibilities of using geotherml energy for block central heating. The Municipality of Gödöllő was responsible for the elaboration of the Technical Handbook with generic guidelines for the operation of RE. The handbook is issued not only in English but also in Hungarian as a useful source of basic knowledge. A model structure for feasibility studies of RE projects was developed. Based on this 3 feasibility studies for solving energy problems of the municipality were elaborated.</p>	<p>Increased knowledge on state-of-the-art technologies, on procedures and methods of determining the viability and effectiveness in project development on regional and local level were gained through the project. E.g.:The PR-handbook for the implementation of selective waste collection (in English, German, Hungarian) will be used by 106 municipalities of the Regional Environmental and Waste Management Association of Municipalities North-Pest and Nograd Counties. By participating in the elaboration of a problem-solution-matrix with legal, financial, administrative and economic parameters, a model business plan and a marketing plan an overview on other successful EU-projects was gained.</p>
7	<p>Based on the cooperation with the Local Focus Group the Czech Biogas Association (CzBA) was initiated. The "ENKI concept", which is based on closed nutrition circles, was performed and a partnership in the field of RES and relevant innovative approaches (spatial planning, new technologies - "biogas cleaning") were linked up.</p>	<p>The origin of the CzBA has national impact as there was no such institution or platform in the Czech Republic before. The booming biogas markets lacks legislative tools, ex-post monitoring and PR concept. Through CzBA the R&D sector started to cooperate more with public bodies and the enterprise sector. The "ENKI concept" shows that interventions related to RES projects must be in compliance with all environmental aspects (landscape and water management mainly). This has to do with the increasing effort to grow energy crops regardless of landscape. Within RECORA there was a lot of new linkages with relevant actors abroad and it influenced the activities of the industry sector, R&D institutions on the local and international level.</p>
8	<p>The Regional Secretariat of Attica, even though it has a strong interest in innovative projects, has had little experience in the renewable energy sector. It considers sustainable development as high priority and committed to RECORA in order to enter</p>	<p>By organising LFGs and meetings the level of awareness and motivation to contribute in RE-projects could be raised significantly in Attica. Many new ideas were found and tested for their transferability to Greek circumstances.</p>

	the RES sector, thus to engage in strategic planning and implementing renewable energy projects for its north-east and north-west rural municipalities. Following the biogas and compost training several composting plants could be initiated in the region of Attica.	
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4.3 Contribution to other EU policies

After the closure of your operation, please review how your operation has contributed to EU policies on equal opportunities, sustainable development and environment.

References:

Application form, 2.3 Contribution to other EU policies

Effect on Equal opportunities

- Main focus
- Positive
- Neutral

Effect on Sustainable development

- Main focus
- Positive
- Neutral

Effect on Environment

- Main focus
- Positive
- Neutral

Please justify the choices above and explain how these policies were reflected in your operation. (maximum 2000 characters)

The efficient use of RES contributes to the reduction of CO2 emissions in the respective regions. The collection and recycling of waste was promoted. Viable utilisation concepts motivated municipalities, farmers and waste management companies to focus on optimising the reintegration of production residuals into the production process and in that case the production of energy resources, such as biogas, biomass, etc. These concepts were made visible, tangible and comprehensible to many interested bodies, thus generating and promoting employment equity practices. Indeed, RECORA served very vital environmental protection issues. RECORA enforced the equal representation of men and women in its LFG activities as well as throughout the project implementation.

5. Durability of the operation and its results

5.1 What will happen to the partnership after closure of the project? Will the partnership continue to cooperate on this issue? (maximum 2000 characters)

References:

Application form, 1.8 Durability of the operation's results

The durability of the operation's achievements will be ensured through the LFGs established during the implementation of the project. Activity is expected to continue to work locally upon the realisation of the project by using the guidelines, recommendations and model business plans and feasibility studies. The LFGs consisted of members of local/regional government and the business community having a vested interest in the information and guidelines developed through RECORA. The website will continue to be updated by the LP. The project outputs are owned by all partners and are readily available to an international audience through the website.

The partners expressed their interest to continue the cooperation beyond the project's duration. Intense considerations on a follow-up project led to submitting a project proposal within the 1st Call for Proposals in INTERREG IV C.

5.2 What will happen to the operation's results now that activities are finalised? Have you developed an action plan for maintaining results? Will there be institutional structures for maintaining and/or disseminating the operation's results? (maximum 2000 characters)

References:

Application form, 1.8 Durability of the operation's results

The project outputs are owned by all partners and are readily available to an international audience through the website (download section). In addition a project documentation brochure and a project documentation CD-Rom were produced. The CD-Rom contains the collected works of the project (power points, studies, handbooks, etc.) and can be ordered at the LP. Some of the RECORA partners intend to submit a follow-up project in the new programming period. This follow-up project shall use the already achieved outputs of RECORA, make them available to new partners and, if necessary, adapt and further develop them. The outputs can also be found on the website of the International Communal Network.

5.3 Are any follow-up projects planned? If so, please name and briefly describe them. (maximum 2000 characters)

A follow-up project proposal called iRECORA has already been submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals in INTERREG IV C. The main objectives of the new project are the reduction of CO₂-emissions and the development of energy-autonomous regions Energy-autonomy implies the utilisation of local RES to significantly increase the independence of regions from energy imports. The project aims at enhancing the effectiveness of regional development policies. The emphasis is set on waste management and sustainable and local generation of energy. By virtue of using small scale, local utilities, most of the added value will remain in the region and thus have an impact on employment, human capital and entrepreneurship as well.

6. Experience gained and Feedback on the programme

6.1. Please report your experience gained with implementing your interregional operation. If possible, make proposals how you would improve procedures in a future. (maximum 2000 characters each)

➤ Project coordination and management

The project coordination and management structures proved to be well working. The three-level structure of the project (SG, WGs and LFGs) allowed not only top-down or bottom-up but also in-between communication. External project evaluation, carried out by an independent expert, provided permanent feedback on implementation and progress of the project and its work. Thus, if necessary, adjustments could be made quickly.

Each WG was led by another partner. This facilitated the coordination of the WGs' tasks and enhanced their commitment to the project.

➤ Implementation of activities

The LP was responsible for the overall project coordination, financial management and reporting. Each partner was represented in the Steering Group by at least one member. The WG leaders reported to the Steering Group about the progress made in the implementation of their component and coordinated all activities in this component. Each partner was involved in the WGs by sending 1-3 representatives or experts.

➤ Cooperation between the partners

Generally speaking the cooperation between the RECORA partners was well-running. All partners have been involved in the implementation and realisation of the operation. Most partners contributed with their experience in the field of renewable energy. The Communal Waste Management Association Tulln as Lead Partner was in charge of the overall project management and coordination. The Work Group team leaders (Weilerbach, Attica, Gödöllő) managed the work in the work groups in collaboration with the other partners. Project partner Zala was excluded from the project according § 13 of the partnership agreement because of non-fulfillment of objectives and a lack of cooperation. A lot of data was not available in Attica so data collection turned out to be more difficult than expected and the partner was lagging behind quite a long time. After conducting waste analyses and analyses of the material flows in general the partner could catch up and the collected data was included in the outputs of the project.

➤ Financial management / Budget / Financial plan

In principal the budget and financial plan of the operation were suitable.
A major revision was done during the exclusion of partner Zala from the project. The remaining budget of the excluded partner was allocated to partner Gödöllő for additional activities and outputs. Partner Attica was lagging behind with its First Level Control for two years. Only at the very end of the project the missing certificates of four reporting periods were submitted to the Lead Partner and could be included in the last progress report of the operation. Despite several requests the Lead Partner received only sparse financial information from Attica. Thus the monitoring of the project's budget was extremely difficult.
This difficulty could probably be improved by a more frequent financial reporting. In this case deviations from the original budget would be noticed earlier and corrections could be performed easier.

6.2. Could you name a strong and a weak point of the INTERREG IIIC programme?

Strong (maximum 1000 characters):

The strongest point of the INTERREG III C programme is that it allowed for the exchange of experience and transfer of know-how on the level of public authorities and public-equivalent bodies. The activities and outputs of the RECORA project would not have been possible without co-funding through INTERREG III C. The project's outputs and results can serve as a cornerstone for the future development of the participating project regions. As a network was created with other, similar projects in the field as well as with non-participating regions and bodies the findings of RECORA are available not only to the partnership but also to other interested parties.

Weak (maximum 1000 characters):

A weak point is that in the INTERREG III C programme there is very high autonomy of the participating member states, especially when it comes to financial matters. Procedures, e.g. for First Level Control, vary between the partners and can cause difficulties and delays. Mutual accounting for services seems to be impossible with, for example, Greek project partners. Despite resolutions, the partnership agreement and written communication from the JTS confirming this procedure, it is not accepted and invoices from other project partners ignored. There is no cut-through right to help the other partners put through their rights.

6.3. Are you or your partners considering project ideas for a future programming period? What are the issues? (maximum 2000 characters)

Most of the project partners expressed their interest in continuing the collaboration beyond project duration. Thus a project proposal (iRECORA) was submitted in the 1st Call for Proposals in INTERREG IV C. Some of the RECORA partners, together with some new ones, will participate actively in the new partnership. Others will be available to provide knowledge and experience as external experts. The iRECORA project will mainly focus on waste management, renewable energies and energy-autonomy.

6.4. How would you evaluate the programme implementation and what changes would you propose?
(maximum 2000 characters)

6.4.1. Programme information and application (Information events, application pack and forms, consultations, availability of the JTS/MA etc)

(5 excellent, 4 good, 3 adequate, 2 poor, 1 very poor;)

5 4 3 2 1

Comments/proposals (maximum 2000 characters)

Information events were not only extremely helpful in providing information on special topics. They also allowed for an exchange of experience between different projects, what helped to meet other people, create networks, exchange findings or identify new points of view and approaches. The JTS East in Vienna was addressable at any time and willed to support. Questions were quickly answered and the JTS always aimed at offering straightforward solutions to problems.

6.4.2. Approval, contracting, and start-up (Conditions for approval, lead partner seminar, subsidy contract, consultations etc)

(5 excellent, 4 good, 3 adequate, 2 poor, 1 very poor)

5 4 3 2 1

Comments/proposals (maximum 2000 characters)

6.4.3. Monitoring, implementation and finalisation (Reporting, consultations, workshops and seminars, payments, final report etc)

(5 excellent, 4 good, 3 adequate, 2 poor, 1 very poor)

5 4 3 2 1

Comments/proposals (maximum 2000 characters)

The reporting forms sometimes were a little bit annoying. Especially towards the end of the project or when reporting about very busy half-years the limitation of characters was problematic. Finding creative but understandable abbreviations was necessary. Filling in the same information in different sections of the Progress Reports was a potential source for mistakes / typing errors. Workshops and seminars were well-organised and extremely helpful. They did not only allow further exchange of experience and information but also provided the chance for networking and social contacts.

6.5 Any other issues / comments / suggestions? (maximum 2000 characters)

7. Contact details

Please provide contact details for obtaining information about the operation after the official closure of the operation.

Institution: Communal Waste Management Association Tulln
Address: Minoritenplatz 1
Postal code: 3430
Town: Tulln a.d. Donau
Country: Austria
Region : Lower Austria

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Website: www.gvatulln.at

Place, date:

.....
Name and title of the signatory

.....
Signature and stamp of the Lead Partner