

UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE)

UNEP has established a regional office on each continent to ensure that global environmental policies enlist and service regional priorities and concerns. The regional offices are part of UNEP's Division of Regional Co-operation.

ROE is located in Geneva and services the 53 countries of Western and Eastern Europe. It has an office in Brussels for co-operation with the European Union. It has a liaison office in Moscow and services two sub-regional conventions, one from Geneva and the other from Vienna.

ROE facilitates and supports regional and sub-regional co-operation and partnerships, produces environmental assessments and early warnings, advises on how to respond to emerging environmental problems and concerns, supports environmental training and technical assistance to Eastern Europe, and provides outreach, environmental education and public information services.

ROE delivers mainly through partnerships with Governments, inter-governmental agencies and civil society organizations. It promotes policy exchange and collaboration with and amongst these partners, through networking and other means of communication. It established and sustains networks of UNEP National Committees and National Coalitions for Sustainable Consumption.



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“UNEP sets the global environment agenda, provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment, inspires, informs and enables Nations and Peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”



EUROPE

Threats*

Water resources in danger
Air pollution
Irreversible soil loss
Increase in wastes
Ecosystems at risk
Unsustainable use of natural resources
Continued loss of biodiversity
Climate change
Environmental health risks

Challenges

To enhance environmental cooperation and delivery in the region
To make sectoral policies environmentally sound
To enhance public access to environmental information
To ensure financial support for environmental management
To enlist the private sector and NGOs as partners in environmental management

STRATEGIES

Encourage policy dialogue and **COOPERATION** in the region

ROE services UNEP's policy dialogue and collaboration with the European Union and contributes to major intergovernmental processes in Europe.

ROE's advisory services seek to inspire and support sound environmental management in the Balkans and economies in transition of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

ROE helps governments work together in addressing common environmental challenges such as the protection of transboundary ecosystems. ROE supports environmental institutions, assists in writing environmental impact assessments and uses its experience to facilitate (sub-)regional dialogue and cooperation.

Protect the environment for better **SECURITY**

Conflicts over natural resources or risks from a polluted environment can lead to instability. ROE, jointly with UNDP and OSCE, launched an Environment and Security initiative to bring situations where environment and security risks are high, to the attention of policy-makers and the general public, and to assist in addressing them.

Access to information and justice reduces chances of conflict and degradation. This is why ROE promotes the principles of the Århus Convention and environmental journalism.

Promote **SUSTAINABILITY**

Our day-to-day behavior has a major influence on ecosystems. ROE promotes sustainable consumption to minimise the adverse impact of human activities on our environment.

ROE helps governments, businesses, and consumers to join hands in promoting sustainable consumption and to respect the environment in deciding what to plan, buy, use, throw away, etc.

Share **INFORMATION**

Workshops, round-tables, reports, websites, lobbying, books for children, magazines, libraries, world events: ROE uses the whole palette of communication tools to share information, raise awareness about environmental issues and keep in touch with NGOs and local actors.

ROE has set up the Geneva Environment Network, bringing together 50 UN organisations, NGOs, agencies and academic institutions to foster cooperation and achieve synergies in promoting environmentally sound development.

Preserve **BIODIVERSITY**

Unsustainable forestry, agriculture, tourism and other practices destroy species and landscapes. To prevent this, UNEP brokered the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ROE is promoting a pan-European strategy - PEBDLS - to encourage conservation of biological and landscape diversity, and to demonstrate the value of the sustainable use of biodiversity and of sharing benefits generated by it.

Develop environmental **LAW**

ROE facilitated the negotiations for framework conventions to protect the environment of the Caspian Sea and the Carpathians. ROE is assisting in strengthening the agreements to protect the Black Sea. ROE also continues to support the development of new environmental agreements.

ROE provides training of judges in environmental law and assists in developing national capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements.