

# Beyond compliance: how regions can help build a sustainable Europe

A toolkit for integrating the environment  
into regional development

Logroño (La Rioja), Spain, 18-19 April 2007



## How regions can help build a sustainable Europe

Every year hundreds of billions of Euros are spent on regional development and economic and social cohesion throughout Europe. This investment offers huge potential to develop Europe's regions in a way that protects or improves the environment. However, facing a wide range of competing priorities, it is not always possible to give the environment the attention it deserves.

Regional development programmes can play a decisive role in delivering better outcomes that are environmentally sustainable. Policy-making does not always have to be a stark choice between economic progress and environmental protection. Programmes can maintain and enhance the environment while continuing to deliver the economic and social benefits that politicians seek.

Achieving mere environmental compliance is not enough. An 'integrated approach' - placing environmental issues firmly alongside socio-economic concerns, needs to be adopted if real progress is going to be made.

"Regional development programmes can play a decisive role in delivering better outcomes that are environmentally sustainable."

## A toolkit for integrating the environment into regional development



**Institutions like your own are the key to achieving environmental integration in your region. But can your organisation address all challenges of a sustainable regional development? That is where our Toolkit on integrating the environment into regional development can lend you a helping hand.**

The different components of our toolkit address the issues that confront any local, regional or national authority faced with the challenges of balancing economic and social needs versus environment. The toolkit will help you to answer many questions, including:

- How can the environment benefit economic competitiveness?
- What are other authorities doing? We think we're doing some good work, but it would help to compare our practice with others.
- We work with various partners. How could we take these relationships further to achieve better results?

- We know we have to do Strategic Environmental Assessment, but how can we use it to develop programmes of genuine quality?
- The idea of greening projects for growth and jobs worked in many regions, why not in yours?
- We need to make progress in the urban and rural areas. How can we use European funding mechanisms to achieve a greener urban and agricultural environment?

*Participants will receive a copy of the Toolkit at the conference.*

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## Indicative Agenda

### 18 April 2007

- Launching of our Charter and Toolkit
- Opportunities within the new EU funding cycle 2007-13
- Training workshops on selected Toolkit's topics
- Training workshops on developing EU territorial co-operation projects
- Forum on project ideas: environment and economy

### 19 April 2007

- Training workshops on selected Toolkit's topics
- Training workshops on developing EU territorial co-operation projects
- Forum on project ideas: environment and economy

#### 'Optional site visit'

The Truffle project in the Unesco Biosphere Reserve

The conference will be in English with English-Spanish interpretation during plenary sessions and selected working groups.

## Call for presentations

We invite all interested participants to submit new project ideas for territorial cooperation related to environment and economic development. The most interesting and relevant ideas will be presented during the 'Forum on project ideas'. The deadline for submission is 16 March 2007. For further information, please use contact details below.

## Venue

La Rioja Conference Center and Auditorium  
(Palacio de Congresos y Auditorio de la Rioja)  
25 San Millán, Logroño, Spain

[www.riojaforum.com/](http://www.riojaforum.com/)

## Registration

If you are interested to join us at this conference, please send the attached registration form by 9 March 2007 to:

**[angela.sorce@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:angela.sorce@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

If you need further details, please either send an email or call us at:

phone: **+44 1392 35 23 14**

mobile: **+44 79 17 18 41 37**

**Please note:** We will soon be posting the conference agenda and additional information on the website: [www.grdp.org](http://www.grdp.org)



#### Who are we?

The Greening Regional Development Programmes (GRDP) is an EU-wide network funded by the EU Interreg IIIC programme. We have 17 partners and over 20 associated organisations. We are sharing good practice and developing advice on integrating the environment into regional development programmes. For more information and all our products, please look at our website: [www.grdp.org](http://www.grdp.org).

#### GRDP Charter

The Toolkit will be introduced with a Charter on environmental integration. The Charter is a political document setting golden standards on integrating the environment into regional development.

