

# **RCE Development in Europe**

Continental Meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

# Participants

## 9 RCE of 22 European RCE (6 of 11 Countries)

- RCE Acores
- RCE Creias-Oeste
- RCE Oldenburger-Münsterland
- RCE Nizhny-Novgorod
- RCE Samara
- RCE Southern North-Sea
- RCE Porto
- RCE Graz-Styria
- RCE Severn
- RCE Service Centre, UNU-IAS

# Continental Meeting Outcomes

## Aim:

- Making progress in the discussion about European Strategy building

## What we did.

- Summarizing the discussion about European Strategy building
- Sharing Information about contacts with UN-bodies in Europe and with EU
- Discussion about better communication between RCEs
- Outlining a strategy for RCE-action on a European level

# Comments on European Strategy Building

- EU-wide RCE-Association make it easier to collaborate on and develop joint projects
- Structure follows action – action follows vision
- Contents are more important than formal issues
- No need for weighty bureaucracy of further administrative coordination. But there is a need for better (formal) communication

# Vision seeking strategy

- RCE already have a vision - Vision is global
  - From Vision we have to come to strategy.
  - Strategy is not only global (UNU-IAS) but also continental and even local (individual RCE)
- **Looking for Strategy how European RCEs may have best impact on European Policy making (EU, UNECE,...)**
- To be prepared for this we have to come in touch with European policy at eye level.

# Eye level needs European RCE-Strategy

- Communication and transparency of actions on European level
  - Involve all RCEs in communication
  - Decisions about common strategy
- Work on coordinated European strategies for European RCEs
  - To survive after 2014
    - Think about follow up Decade - 2nd UNDESD
      - Propose to Government - Japan
  - EU Strategy 2013 -2020
  - UN CSD - Rio+20 → 2012

# European Policy needs RC-Expertise

Continental Meeting, May 18th 2010

Level Perspective	Knowledge Expertise	Ability	Attitude	Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X-cutting topic ESD; Health etc.</li> <li>Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable networking</li> <li>Acceptance Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respecting local initiatives with global perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote SD to heart and brain of People</li> <li>Passion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continental level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>!!!!!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>!!!!!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>!!!!!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>!!!!!!</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge shared with other RCE</li> <li>Inter-disciplinary Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable networking</li> <li>Acceptance Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global initiatives with regional impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authenticity</li> <li>Trust</li> </ul>

# Added value – RCE Identity for next Decade

- External Profiling - RCE Expertise
  - Expertise - Knowledge Abilities Attitude Communication
    - Sustainable networking
    - Policy making – policy of acceptance
    - Respecting local initiatives with global perspective
    - Promote SD to heart and brain of people
    - Authenticity, trust
- Redefining RCE Identity of next decade
  - Rethinking Sustainability in terms of culture, society, religion, spirituality etc.



## Next steps - Proposals

- Announcement of next European Meeting in Munich
  - December, 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>
- Sharing the outcomes to the other RCE by email
  - Jos Hermans
- Proposals for European strategy building
  - Identifying Coordination tasks (European Policy; Health, Youth etc.)
  - Naming responsables for this tasks in Munich



# Two tracks of discussion

- Discussion about European platform and communication (Non-Paper)
- Discussion about Jos Hermans' Paper

We want to know your opinion about

- critical mass
- numbers
- Scattering
- regional platforms
- looking for partners
- diversity
- Fund raising

# Discussion about European Platform

## Comments from 15 Persons and 11 RCE (50% of European RCE)

- Aidan Doyle, RCE North-East
- Jos Rikers, RCE Rhine-Meuse
- Clemens Mader, RCE Graz
- Jos Herman, UNU-IAS Coordinator for Europe
- Bernard Mazijn, Luk van Langenhove, RCE SNS (Non-Paper)
- Jos Eussen, RCE Rhine-Meuse
- Detlev Lindau-Bank, RCE Oldenburger Münsterland
- Zinaida Fadeeva, UNU-IAS
- Suhita Osório-Peters, Member of the Steering Committee of CREIAS-Oeste, Portugal
- Walter Leal, Jens Schwarz, RCE Hamburg
- Ros Wade, RCE London
- Adam Cade, RCE East Midlands
- Carol Rabbette, RCE Severn Co-ordinator,
- Peter Craig, RCE Yorkshire&Humber

# Comments on building an European RCE Association

- Structure follows action – action follows vision
- Contents are more important than formal issues
- No need for weighty bureaucracy of further administrative coordination. But there is a need for better (formal) communication

## Critical Aspects

- Does the creation of permanent formal structures (more than thematic cooperation projects) actually promote common and regional activities?
- European RCE Association may undermine attempts to make links with RCE outside Europe
- It may cause duplications and misunderstanding because of two administrative groups (UNU-IAS and European Association)
  - More coordination at a global level rather than intervention at a local level

# Affirmative Arguments

- EU-wide RCE-Association make it easier to collaborate on and develop joint projects
- European RCE Cooperation on an informal and a formal level
  - Informal networking by email
  - Formal networking by regular meetings and joint projects
- RCE Collaboration in the frame of specific projects
- Using other European network
- It is very important to make visible the objectives and the activities of the RCE movement at international, European and national levels

# Strategies

- The RCE-movement can only succeed if it emerges from spontaneous initiatives of highly motivated people; directing too much the self-dynamic of the movement is counterproductive.
- Expanding and founding collaboration via concrete projects
- **Working on vision and reaching broad agreement**
- **Discussion and perhaps decisions at the European Conference in Munich**



# Comments on Jos Hermans' Paper

## We want to know your opinion about ...

- critical mass
  - No limitation- spontaneous development is a strength of RCE movement
- Numbers
  - Big numbers in one country is a chance for collaboration.
- Scattering
  - It is important to have a closer look on the circumstances that hinders people in the specific areas to found RCE-initiatives

# Comments on Jos Hermans' Paper

## We want to know your opinion about ...

- regional platforms
  - As shown
- looking for partners
  - We welcome all opportunities to work thematically with other EU regions
- Diversity
  - Promoting cultural diversity should be seen as priority of the RCE-movement, although it raises important challenges, too: how can we work together and keep diversity alive?
- Fund raising
  - No comment

# Proposals

- **Oversee the discussion on the preparation of a European Association**
- **Information about contacts with UN-bodies in Europe and with EU**
- **The development of a European RCE-vision on ESD, as initiated by some RCE**
- **New cooperation of current RCEs with new ones in Europe; new contacts with important ESD-organizations.**
  - How to enlarge our RCE-network in the most wanted places? How to find new existing ESD-organizations that would wish to partner with us?
- **How to communicate better between RCEs?**
  - Can we re-evaluate our efforts on several discussion-platforms?

# European RCEs

## Europe (22)

### Austria

1. Graz-Styria

### Belgium

2. Southern North Sea

### Germany

3. Hamburg
4. Munich
5. Nuremberg
6. Oldenburger Münsterland

### Greece

7. Crete

### Ireland

8. Ireland

### Netherlands

9. Rhine-Meuse

### Portugal

10. Açores
11. Creias-Oeste
12. Porto Metropolitan Area

### Russia

13. Nizhny Novgorod
14. Samara

### Spain

15. Barcelona

### Sweden

16. Skåne

### UK

17. East Midlands
18. London
19. North East
20. Severn
21. Wales
22. Yorkshire & Humberside



5 new RCEs fiscal year of  
04/2009 – 04/2010