

## The European Future Project against Climate Change

At a time when actions in the fight against climate change are called for throughout the world, the European metropolitan regions take charge. In a 30-month project, 21 European metropolitan regions aim to devise strategies for achieving an 80% reduction of greenhouse gases emissions by the year 2050.

An application to this effect has been submitted to the Secretariat in Lille, under the new INTERREG IVC programme. After approval, the project shall start in June 2008 and present its results in December 2010.

Project participants are nine European capitals, Europe's two largest ports and ten further metropolitan regions from various climate zones. Lead partner is the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg.

METREX, the organisation of Europe's metropolitan regions, is partner, too, and makes available its network to disseminate the obtained knowledge to the other European metropolitan regions.

The EU has set the target to reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% compared to 1990, by the year 2050. Project EUCO2 80/50 will enable Europe's metropolitan regions to devise effective strategies in order to achieve this objective.



# The EU sets the target: 80% reduction of CO2 by 2050

Implementation of an EU objective

Metropolitan areas cause 75% of all greenhouse gases

Project EUCO2 80/50 is regionally-based

A METREX initiative

Lead partner MR Hamburg

GRIP model as pilot project

Scientific monitoring by the Tyndall Centre (UK)

GRIP model visualises interdependencies

Three-tiered process leads from technical data compilation to political decision



Decision makers get consensus-based and comprehensible proposals

## Background

The European Commission's ambitious objective manifests the intention to reduce the global CO2 emissions by 50% compared to 1990, by the year 2050. Only this can ensure that the average global warming does not exceed 2 degrees centigrade.

This requires the industrialised countries to reduce their emissions by 80%, in order to compensate for the lower mitigation capacities of the developing countries, due to the backlog demands of their national economies.

The 100 European metropolitan regions are responsible for 75% of the CO2 emissions in the EU and are therefore particularly required to regionally comply with the globally set targets. With the project **EUCO2 80/50**, the 22 partners want to initiate the strategic process of greenhouse gas reduction which will, through knowledge and experience transfer, enable other metropolitan regions to follow suit.

## Initiators

The initial idea originates from **METREX**. 50 of the 100 European metropolitan regions are members in this organisation. 5 further regions are currently preparing their accession.

The **Metropolitan Region of Hamburg** was appointed **Lead Partner**. 21 metropolitan regions and METREX participate in the project.

## Project History

From October 2006 to June 2007, a **pilot project** was realised, which devised a unified method for inventorying CO2 emissions in a computer simulation. Participants were the METREX members Glasgow, Stockholm, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto.

Scientific monitoring was provided by the Tyndall Centre (UK). It devised the **GRIP model** – the **Greenhouse gas Regional Inventory Project**. It is a comprehensible visualisation of the interdependencies of CO2 emission sources, energy conservation and the use of renewable energies. The model also allows to compare a variety of different reduction and substitution strategies in respect of their efficiency.

By entering regionally compiled or mathematically deduced data, the energy-based main problems of the studied region are being visualised and can thus be investigated analytically.

## Project Concept

The GRIP model is basis for a **three-tiered political discussion and decision finding process**.

In the **first step**, the regional energy data is being compiled and entered into the data bank of the computer simulation.

In the **second step**, **scenario workshops** are being held, with participation of regional stakeholders (industry, transport, politics, associations etc.). There, various scenarios for greenhouse gas reduction are being simulated with the GRIP model. This initiates the political and technical discussion about which steps for reducing CO2 emissions are **technically possible, economically feasible and politically enforceable**.

In the **third step**, **strategy workshops** are held, once more with participation of regional stakeholders, where the participants debate which specific strategies should be **proposed to the political, economical and social decision makers** at the end of the GRIP process.

In summary, the GRIP process makes use of an intelligent technical tool – the GRIP model – to create presentations of energy scenarios which are comparable Europe-wide. It also provides the decision makers of the respective metropolitan region with a **proposal jointly devised by numerous stakeholders**.

This process is scientifically substantiated, rational and consensus-oriented. It is comprehensible and enables the decision makers to launch a sound, **politically and economically feasible as well as future-oriented, long-term strategy** which outlasts legislative periods.

# The EUCO2 process transforms a target into a strategy

## Project progression, project participants, project structure

In the pilot project, the four participants implemented the first step (compilation of regional energy data), the Glasgow region additionally held scenario workshops (second step).

In the project **EUCO2 80/50**, all partners shall carry out **all three steps** of the GRIP process. The project progression, the knowledge and experience exchange as well as the result documentation will be organised in 6 central and 21 decentral meetings. At the inception meeting, all participating metropolitan regions present status quo reports of their mitigation efforts so far.

Being **lead partner**, the **Metropolitan Region of Hamburg** is responsible for the agenda and financial coordination. It reports semi-annually to the INTERREG Secretariat in Lille.

The lead partner organises **four central meetings** (inception meeting, assessment workshops synthesis meeting, scenario and strategy workshops synthesis meeting and the project's closing conference). It participates in the regional workshops as observer and adviser and, by holding constant contact to all partners, assures a successful project progression.

**METREX** assists the lead partner in setting up the application, with public relations, the internet representation and in all aspects concerning the cooperation between the partners. METREX owns the rights of use for GRIP and makes these available to the project participants.

In order to avoid too large and redundant conferences and to minimise travel distances and costs, the partners are divided into seven regional groups – **mitigation areas** – consisting of three metropolitan regions each. Other neighbouring metropolitan regions may attend their meetings as observers.

The allocation of these groups is based upon geographical vicinity and climatic commonalities. The regional groups will meet three times during the project term. One member of each mitigation area acts as regional coordinator. This coordinator will also be member of the project's steering group, which supports the lead partner in implementing and managing the project.

The **three interregional workshops** of the mitigation areas (assessment, scenario and strategy) each consist of two parts: a first part with parallel workshops and a second part with a conjoint meeting for discussions and experience exchange.

In order to prepare and follow-up the interregional workshops, complementary **local workshops** will be held in the metropolitan regions with the participation of various stakeholders.

The metropolitan regions of Stuttgart and Helsinki will act as practice partners. They compile best practice guides, and each make their results available to the other project partners at one central conference in their region as well as via internet.

## Benefits for the european process

One objective of the INTERREG IVC programme is the exchange of best practices. Project EUCO2, however, is not limited to supporting the dissemination of existing mitigation best practices. By performing a three-tiered decision finding process which can be reproduced by other metropolitan areas, the 21 partner regions develop new best practices of their own.

Their participation in the three-step GRIP process puts the partner regions in the vanguard of the EU climate protection agenda. With GRIP, they apply a field-tested tool, they develop own experiences with interregional knowledge exchange, and at the end of the process they possess the **competence to formulate climate objectives for their region** as far as into the year 2050.

At a time when actions in the fight against climate change are called for throughout the world, **the european metropolitan regions take charge**. EU funding serves to set the necessary political process into motion.

The results of project EUCO2 80/50 could help the EU to devise specific and long-term binding regulations and funding criteria on the subject of climate change.

Mitigation – technical and political schemes which help to limit climate change

Four central meetings, 24 interregional workshops

METREX is network consulter and contributes GRIP to the partnership

Mitigation areas avoid unnecessary travels and enable interregional-based focus

Local workshops complement the interregional workshops

Practice partners enable additional knowledge transfer

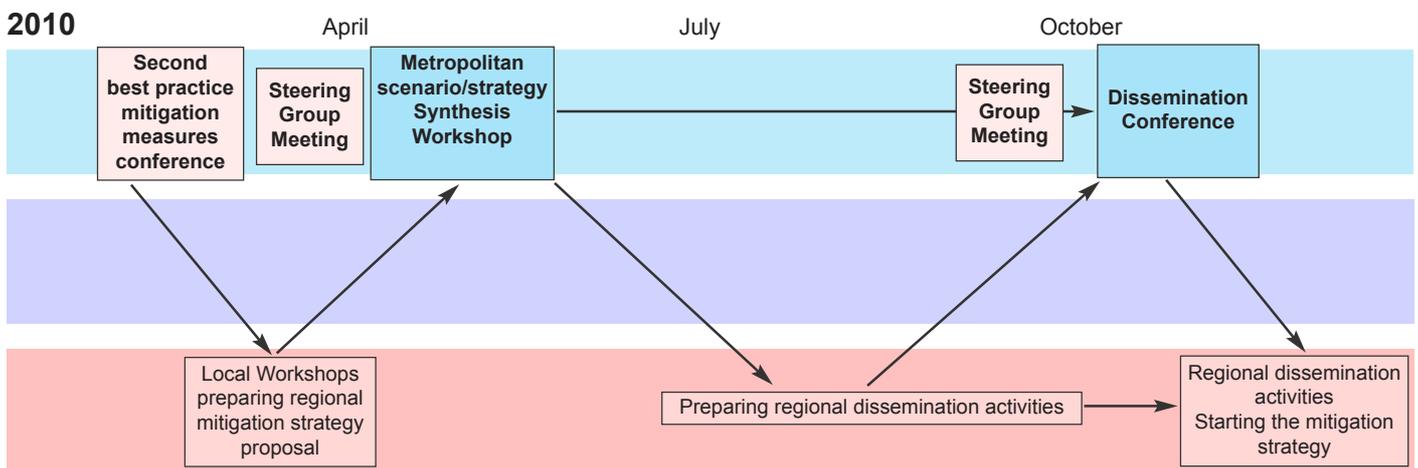
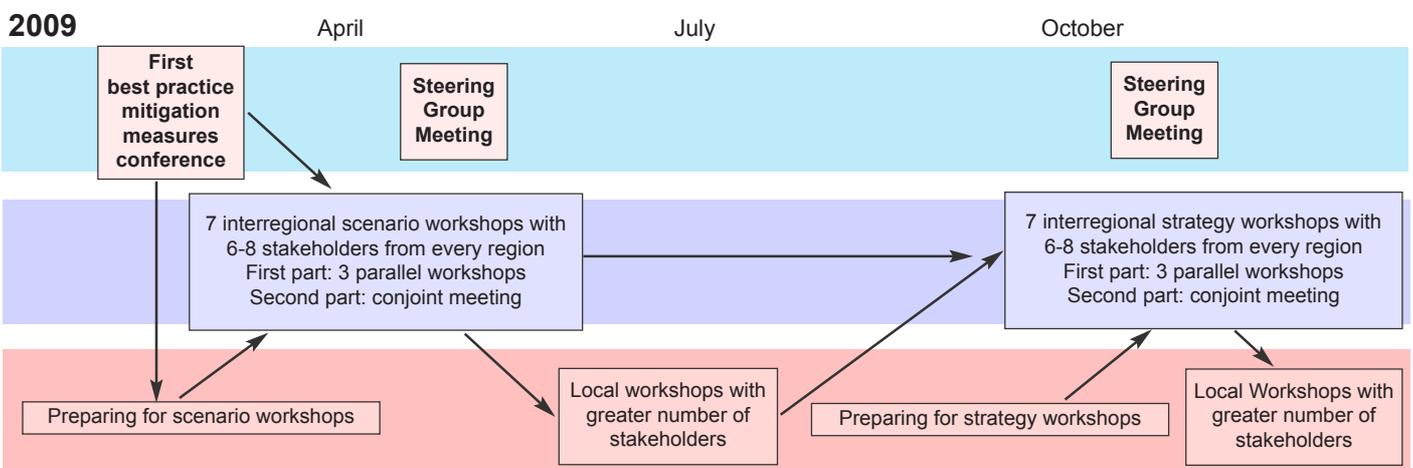
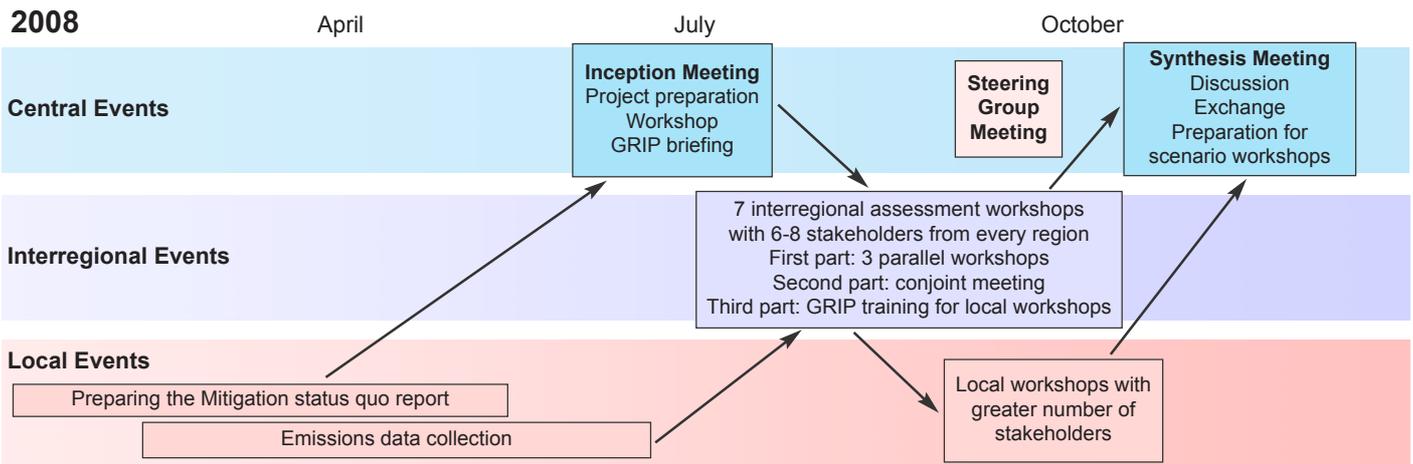
Project EUCO2 develops own best practices

Pioneering role for participating metropolitan regions

Metropolitan regions take charge!

Prospect european legislation

# Project Timetable and Mitigation Groups



Seven mitigation areas represented in the steering group together with Hamburg, METREX and Practice partners Stuttgart and Helsinki

<b>North</b> Stockholm Helsinki Oslo	<b>West</b> Rotterdam SCM Porto	<b>Central West</b> Paris Frankfurt Stuttgart	<b>Central</b> Glasgow Bruxelles Hamburg	<b>Central South I</b> Veneto Torino Ljubljana	<b>Central South II</b> Emilia-Rom. Nürnberg Genova	<b>South</b> Madrid Napoli Athens
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