

Agreement between Lead Partners and Partners of a CENTRAL EUROPE project (Partnership Agreement)

This document serves as an example, which is provided free of charge. It must be negotiated between partners and tailored to the partnership's individual needs. There is no guarantee and no liability for completeness, correctness, up-to-datedness and full compatibility with EU and national law.

It is strongly advised to check whether the terms and clauses – especially those dealing with company law, property law, disputes between partners and compensation for damages – are correct and consistent with the applicable law according to § 24 of this Agreement. All clauses, including eventual additional clauses, must be in line with the Subsidy Contract and the legal framework as indicated in the Subsidy Contract. The Managing Authority cannot under any circumstances or for any other reason whatsoever be held liable for damage or injury sustained by the application of this document. The Managing Authority therefore cannot accept any claim for compensation or increases in payment in connection with such damage or injury.

Having regard to:

- the legal framework as in § 1 of the Subsidy Contract signed between the Managing Authority (hereinafter referred to as MA) and the Lead Partner **Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu (eza!)** of the project No 3sCE417P3, acronym CEP-REC and in particular Art. 20.1 (a) of the Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 July 2006 and
- § 6.1 to § 6.3 of the Subsidy Contract signed between the Managing Authority and the aforementioned Lead Partner on 18/10/2012.

the following Agreement shall be made between:

Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu (eza!), Burgstraße 26, 87435 Kempten (Allgäu), Germany, represented by Martin Sambale (Lead Partner)

and

Trnava self-governing region, Starohájska 10, 917 01 Trnava, Slovakia, represented by Tibor Mikuš (Partner 16),

for the implementation of the CENTRAL EUROPE project 3sCE417P3, Introduction of Regional Energy Concepts, CEP-REC, approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme CENTRAL EUROPE on 16 August 2012 in Vienna.

§ 1

Subject of the Agreement

Subject of this Agreement is the organisation of a partnership in order to implement the CENTRAL EUROPE project 3sCE417P3, Introduction of Regional Energy Concepts, CEP-REC as indicated in the annexes.

The Lead Partner and the Project Partners commit themselves in jointly implementing the project in accordance with the Application Form and support one another with the aim to reach the objectives of the project. This also includes the commitment to produce qualitative outputs and to achieve the results set in the Application Form and support the Lead Partner in fulfilling its obligations as defined in the Subsidy Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner dated 18/10/2012 and its annexes (**Annex II**).

Therefore this Partnership Agreement must be in accordance with the provisions of the Subsidy Contract. The Project Partners declare to have carefully read and accepted the legal framework and the other relevant norms affecting the project. In case that changes in the Subsidy Contract affect the Partnership Agreement, this document has to be adjusted accordingly.

The annexes of this Agreement are considered to be an integral part of this Agreement and comprise:

The latest version of the Application Form including the fulfilment of conditions approved by the Monitoring Committee on 29/08/2012 including enclosures (**Annex I**); the detailed work plan and timetable of activities per Project Partner (**Annex III**); the partners' budget split per work package, budget line and reporting period (**Annex IV**)

§ 2

Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them here:

- (a) Project Partner: any institution financially participating in the project and contributing to its implementation according to Section 4 of the approved project Application Form (corresponds to the term "beneficiary" used in the EU-regulations on Structural Funds and is hereinafter referred to as PP);
- (b) Lead Partner: the project partner who takes the overall responsibility for the project according to Section 4 of the approved project Application Form and as in § 6 of the Subsidy Contract (hereinafter referred to as LP);
- (c) Associated institution: any body involved as observer without financially contributing to the project and included in the list available in Section 4 of the approved project Application Form.

§ 3

Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall enter into force retrospectively (*ex tunc*) as from the day after the submission of the Application Form, unless the project has a later starting date. It shall remain in force as long as the LP and its PPs have any duties linked to the ERDF subsidy, i.e. three years after the closure of the Programme, and in any case at least until 31 December 2022 if there are not national rules that require an even longer archiving period. Other possibly longer statutory retention periods remain unaffected. This applies also to all information and supporting documents regarding a grant under the *de minimis* aid scheme.

§ 4

Partnership

The PPs entitle the LP to represent the PPs in the project. They commit themselves to undertake all steps necessary to support the LP in fulfilling its obligations specified in the Subsidy Contract and in this Agreement.

§ 5

Obligations of the Lead Partner

1. The LP shall assume the sole responsibility for the entire project towards the Managing Authority and fulfil all obligations arising from the related Subsidy Contract.
2. The obligations of the LP ex Article 20(1) of the Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 are listed in § 6 and 7 of the Subsidy Contract included in this Agreement as Annex II. In addition to these, the LP is also obliged to:
 - a) Take all the necessary actions to comply with the requirements indicated in the Control & Audit Guidelines;
 - b) In case the project foresees to implement activities outside the EU territory up to a limit of 10% of the total ERDF project budget ex art. 21.3 of Reg. (EC) No 1080/2006, ensure that funds are spent under its and/or its PPs responsibility in order to secure a proper financial control and that the total ERDF expenditure is within the limit agreed by the partnership and the aforementioned limit not exceeded;
 - c) In case the project has foreseen to involve EU PPs outside the CENTRAL EUROPE area ex art. 21.2 of Reg. (EC) No 1080/2006, ensure that the total ERDF expenditure of those PPs does not exceed the limit of 20% of the total ERDF project budget and
 - d) Ensure to take all the necessary measures in order to avoid that the Subsidy Contract is terminated by the Managing Authority and thus to avoid that the partnership is asked to repay the subsidy according to §15 of the Subsidy Contract.

§ 6

Obligations of the Project Partners

1. Each PP shall comply with the relevant legal and other requirements under the law which applies to it, especially with the European Union's and national legislation as set out in § 1 of the Subsidy Contract (Annex II) and its annexes. Furthermore each PP shall ensure that all necessary approvals have been obtained.

In particular each PP shall ensure for the part of the project for which it is responsible:

- a) that it is in compliance with the relevant EU Regulations - especially ERDF and regulations concerning equal opportunities, protection of environment, cost efficiency, publicity rule, public procurement and State Aid discipline, other applicable rules as reported in the documentation listed in Annex II of this Agreement (in particular the Control & Audit Guidelines) - and the applicable national legislation
 - b) in case *de minimis* for state aid applies, that all administrative requirements necessary to ensure the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 are respected; when necessary, this respect shall also be ensured by those actors/institutions benefitting of the PPs actions implemented within the project;
 - c) that the national eligibility rules, national public procurement rules and programme requirements are strictly respected.
2. Each PP confirms that data contained in the application documents and which are acquired in the project implementation shall be used by the Managing Authority according to the Law on Data Protection 2000, Austrian Federal Law Gazette No 165/1999.

3. Furthermore each PP shall give access to the relevant authorities (Joint Technical Secretariat, Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Commission Services and national and EU controlling institutions) to its business premises for the necessary controls and audits.
4. Each PP shall ensure that its part of activities to be implemented in the approved project is not fully or partly financed by other EU Programmes.
5. Each PP shall ensure that the following project management conditions are fulfilled:
 - a) To implement the part of the project for which it is responsible in due time according to the descriptions of the work plan (Application Form, Section 3) as defined in Annex III of the present Agreement and to start the project implementation at the latest within two months after the entering into force of the Subsidy Contract or at a later date according to the project work plan;
 - b) To appoint a local coordinator for the part(s) of the project for which it is responsible and to give the appointed coordinator the authority to represent the partner in the project so that to ensure a sound project management¹;
 - c) To immediately notify the LP of any event that could lead to a temporary or final discontinuation or any other deviation of the approved part(s) of the project for which the PP is responsible;
 - d) To provide the independent assessors carrying out the CENTRAL EUROPE programme evaluation and ex-post evaluation with any document or information necessary to assist with the evaluation;
 - e) To promptly react to any request by the Managing Authority/Joint Technical Secretariat through the LP;
 - f) To inform the LP about any audit that have been carried out by the bodies mentioned in § 6.3 of the present Agreement.
6. Each PP shall ensure that the following finance management conditions are fulfilled:
 - a) In case the PP is located in the EU CENTRAL EUROPE area and §5.2.b) applies to the aforementioned PP, funds shall be spent under its responsibility in order to secure a proper financial control and the expenditure shall be within the limit agreed by the partnership;
 - b) In case the EU PP is located outside the CENTRAL EUROPE and § 5.2.c) applies, funds shall be spent within the limit indicated;
 - c) That expenditure presented to the LP has been incurred for the purpose of implementing the project and correspond to the activities agreed;
 - d) To immediately inform the LP if costs are reduced or one of the disbursement conditions ceases to be fulfilled, or circumstances arise which entitle the Managing Authority to reduce payment or to demand repayment of the subsidy wholly or in part;
 - e) To install a separate accounting system for the settlement of the present project and safeguard that the eligible costs as well as the received subsidies can be clearly identified.
7. Each PP shall be committed to produce its outputs on time and in compliance with the Application Form as well as with the timetable described within the Application Form. Adjustments of the timetable and delay of the outputs have to be approved by the LP.

¹ Names of local coordinators shall not be included in this Agreement if the partnership does not wish so.

§ 7

Organisational Structure of the Partnership

1. For the successful management and completion of the project a Steering Committee shall be set up.
2. The Steering Committee shall be composed by competent representatives of all PPs as identified in the Start-up Report and shall be chaired by the LP. It shall meet on a regular basis. Associated institutions shall be invited to take part in the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity.
3. The Steering Committee shall:
 - a) Be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the project;
 - b) Decide on any budget changes as in § 11 of the present Agreement;
 - c) Be responsible for the settlement of any disputes among project participants (as stipulated in § 23 of this Agreement);
 - d) Have the possibility to set up sub-groups/ working groups to deal with specific tasks related to the project.
4. Further aspects, including the mediation or resolution of disputes between the Steering Committee and the PP(s) may be set out in the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee.

§ 8

Budgetary and financial management, accounting principles

1. In compliance with § 6 of this Agreement, every PP shall be held responsible towards the LP for guaranteeing a sound financial management of its budget up to the amount as to which the partner participates in the project and pledges to release its part of the co-funding. For this purpose, a separate accounting system must be set in place.

§ 9

Reporting, certification of expenditure and requests for payment

1. Every PP commits to providing the LP with the information needed to draw up and submit, according to the deadlines set in the Subsidy Contract, Progress reports and other specific documents required by the Managing Authority. The reporting periods as laid down in the Subsidy Contract as well as instructions in the reporting forms, Implementation Manual and Control & Audit Guidelines shall be observed.
2. In addition, in order to allow the LP to submit a payment request to the Managing Authority, every PP shall submit to the LP its Confirmations of Control of expenditure issued by the responsible public authorities or private institutions as referred to in Art 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, accompanied by the compulsory elements presented in the control and audit guidelines (i.e., the internal control report and the control checklist).
3. In order to meet the deadlines as stipulated in §9.1, each PP commits itself to deliver the necessary documentation to the LP 30 working days before the deadline set by the JTS.

4. Requests for postponement of the reporting deadline shall be asked by the LP to the Managing Authority via the JTS at the latest one week prior to the due deadline and accompanied by justification documents.
5. The LP shall be in charge of confirming that the expenditure reported by each PP has been incurred by the nominated PP and for the purpose of implementing the project and that it corresponds to the activities laid down in the approved Application Form. The LP shall also verify that the expenditure has been validated by the relevant controller according to the system chosen by the Member State where the PP is located.
6. In the event of expenditure validated by the PP(s) which has not been incurred for the purpose of implementing the project or does not correspond to the activities agreed, the LP shall ask the PP(s) to redraft the submitted financial documents; the LP shall be entitled to deny the expenditure declared by the affected PP(s). In that case, the LP is obliged to inform the PP(s) concerned on the denial of the expenditure declared and the motivation thereto.
7. Payments not requested in time and in full or non in compliance may be lost: in case of decommitment of funds § 18.9 applies.
8. The first level controllers who, in accordance with the system set up by each Member State, shall carry out the validation of the expenditure of the PPs are:

For PP16:

Institution:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

9. These controllers will base their work on the rules provided by each Member State and the requirements set in the respective EC Regulations and in the Control and Audit Guidelines of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme.
10. The PPs from countries having set a decentralised control system, accepts the right of the Managing Authority, after agreement with the national responsible institution, to require that the controller directly selected by the PPs shall be replaced if considerations, which were unknown when the contract was signed, cast doubts on the controller's independence or professional standards.
11. Any change of control authority/institution or name of controller(s) shall be duly notified to the LP who has subsequently to notify the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat.
12. PPs must provide additional information if the LP or the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat deem that necessary in order to proceed with the analysis of the Progress Report. In case it is the latter asking additional clarifications, these will be collected by the LP and sent to the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat.

13. After the Progress report has been checked by the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat and the respective ERDF funds have been transferred to the LP account, the LP shall forward the ERDF share to each PP according to their quota without any delay and in full to the following accounts:

PP16:

Account No (IBAN):

Name of the holder:

Name of the bank:

Bank code (SWIFT):

14. These accounts shall be whenever possible specific for project purposes and shall provide for registration in Euros (EUR; €) of total expenses (expenditure) and of the return (income) related to the project. Changes of the account number shall be duly notified to the LP.
15. The funds will be disbursed in Euro (EUR; €) only. Any exchange rate risk will be borne by the PP.
16. PPs of countries where other currencies than the EURO are valid have to/should use the following exchange rate: 6 months average rate of the average monthly exchange rate.
17. In case of delay in the transfer of ERDF funds imputable to the LP, the PPs may claim interest rates which the LP must not pay from the approved project budget. The maximum acceptable delay is of 30 working days. In exceptional and duly justified cases, public and public equivalent bodies could benefit from an extension of the afore-mentioned set time in order to comply with the internal administrative procedures in transferring public funds.
18. The LP shall systematically send every PP copies of the Progress reports submitted to the Managing Authority via the JTS and keep the PPs informed on a regular basis of all relevant communication with the bodies implementing the Programme.

§ 10

Audit trail

1. Each PP shall maintain for audit purposes all supporting documents regarding expenditure incurred and payments made for which it is responsible recorded and stored on commonly accepted data carriers as referred to in Article 19 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 and made available for verifications according to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 as well as audits according to Articles 62 and 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. All supporting documents shall be stored in a safe and orderly manner for three years after the closure of the programme, and in any case at least until 31 December 2022, if there are not national rules that require an even longer archiving period. Other possibly longer statutory retention periods remain unaffected. This applies also to all information and supporting documents regarding a grant under the *de minimis* aid scheme.

The documents will be held for each PP by the following institutions and in the following locations:

For PP16:

Institution:

Address:

2. In case documents exist in electronic version only, the computer system used must meet accepted security standards that ensure that the documents held comply with national legal requirements and can be relied on for audit purposes.

§ 11

Budget deviation and reallocation

1. The LP is responsible towards the Managing Authority for monitoring and ensuring that budget changes in budget lines, work packages, budgets and partner budgets are allowed as long as the maximum amount of funding awarded is not exceeded, that provisions related to State Aid discipline are respected and that they follow the conditions below:
 - a) an increase of the original amount, as stated in the approved application, is possible in the budget line, the work packages budget (with the exception of work package “WP 0”) and/or the budget of partners. The increase is limited to a maximum of either € 20.000,- or 10% of the original amount of the budget line, the work packages and the budget of the partners² and under the rules as defined in §4.5 a) of the Subsidy Contract;
 - b) reallocation of amounts between budget lines, work packages budget (with the exception of work package “WP 0”) and/or between PPs resulting in an increase of up to 20% but to a maximum of EUR 250.000,- of the original budget of the budget line, work package budget and partner budget as stated in the latest approved application documents is possible³. The reallocation shall take place only once during the project period and under the rules as defined in § 4.5 b) of the Subsidy Contract.
2. Every PP shall timely inform the LP on any request of revision of its budget quota in respect to its original commitment.
3. In case § 11.1 a) or b) applies, the LP shall negotiate changes with its PPs beforehand and submit the proposal to the project Steering Committee for approval.
4. For budget changes exceeding the limit set in §11.1 b) of this Agreement, the LP based on its own and on information received from its PPs - shall submit a motivated request to the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat. These changes may be approved by the Monitoring Committee on a case by case basis.
5. In case a change in the budget occurs, Annex IV of the present Agreement has to be amended accordingly and this change must be notified to the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat.

² Resulting decreases in the budget of other budget lines, work packages and/or budgets of partners may exceed these thresholds as long as the implementation of the approved work plan and the partners’ foreseen involvement remain unaffected.

³ As in the previous footnote.

§ 12

Changes in Project Partnership

1. In case of PP withdrawal from the project due to structural, financial or technical obstacles not existing at the moment of the establishment of the partnership, submission of the project proposal and further (project) implementation, the LP has to inform the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat without delay and has to find rapid and efficient solutions in order to ensure the proper project implementation.
2. The remaining PPs will endeavour to cover the contribution of the withdrawing PP either by assuming its tasks by one or more of the present PPs or by asking a new PP to join the partnership. In case the former applies, the LP shall ensure that the partnership eligibility requirements are ensured.
3. In case a new PP is asked to join the partnership, the LP must ensure that it has adequate experience, technical, organizational and financial capabilities to properly participate in the project and to adequately replace the withdrawing one. The LP shall submit to the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat on behalf of the new PP all relevant documents (including, if necessary, a declaration on the status with regard to the State Aid compliance). Also in this case, the LP shall ensure that the partnership eligibility requirements are ensured.
4. The entry of any new PP becomes legally effective only after approval by the Monitoring Committee. Funds of the withdrawing PP are only available for the new PP or the remaining PPs after the approval of its replacement by the Monitoring Committee.
5. In case a change in partnership occurs, the present Partnership Agreement - as well as the relevant annexes - has to be amended accordingly and signed by the new PP as well as by the remaining partners including the LP.
6. In case the replacing PP, both new or from within the partnership, has a different co-financing rate than the withdrawing one, the initial total ERDF granted to the project by the Monitoring Committee cannot be exceeded.
7. The withdrawn PP has nevertheless to keep documents for audit purposes three years after the closure of the programme, and in any case at least until 31 December 2022.

§ 13

Changes in activities and in project duration

1. In case modification of activities and/or extension of project duration would become necessary, the LP has to inform the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat without delay providing adequate justification.
2. Modification of activities and/or extension of the project duration become legally effective only after approval by the Managing Authority.
3. No extension of duration will be allowed beyond 31 December 2014.
4. In case a change in the activities and/or the duration occurs, all affected annexes of the present Agreement have to be amended accordingly and this change must be notified to the Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat.

§ 14

Information and publicity measures

1. The LP and the PPs shall ensure adequate promotion of the project both towards potential beneficiaries of the project results and towards the general public.
2. Any notice or publication by the project, including a conference or a seminar, must specify that the project has received a subsidy from the Programme funds in compliance with requirements set by the regulatory framework as in §1 of the Subsidy Contract in particular with Articles 8 and 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 on information and publicity measures for the public and its Annex I.
3. The LP must ensure that all the PPs and itself respect the additional publicity requirements as laid down in the Implementation Manual and Control and Audit Guidelines which form an integral part of this Agreement.
4. The LP and the PPs commit themselves that any notice or publication by the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, including the Internet, must specify that it reflects the author's view and that the Managing Authority and the programme bodies are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.
5. The LP and PPs authorise the Managing Authority and the Member States to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, including the Internet, the following information:
 - the name of the LP and its PPs,
 - the purpose of the subsidy,
 - the amount of funding awarded and the proportion of the total cost of the project accounted for by the funding,
 - the geographical location of the project,
 - abstracts of progress reports and of final report,
 - whether and how the project has previously been publicised
6. The LP and PPs agree that the Managing Authority on behalf of the Monitoring Committee and of other CENTRAL EUROPE promoters at national level are entitled to use the outputs of the project in order to guarantee a widespread publicity of such deliverables and to make them available to the public.
7. Project communication and public relation outputs shall be forwarded by the LP to the Managing Authority.

§ 15

Assignment, legal succession

1. Succession to the LP or a PP and assignment of its duties and rights is possible under exceptional cases and in well-founded circumstances and prior written consent of the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee.
2. In the case of legal succession, e.g. where the LP or a PP changes its legal form, the LP or the PP concerned is obliged to transfer all duties under this Agreement to the legal successor. Legal changes must not affect the eligibility of the partnership.
3. The LP shall notify the Managing Authority about any change beforehand.
4. In case § 15.1 applies, the present Agreement has to be amended accordingly.

§ 16

Cooperation with Third parties and outsourcing

1. In the event of outsourcing, the PPs must obey community and national rules on public procurement and shall remain the sole responsible parties towards the LP and through the latter to the Managing Authority concerning compliance with their obligations by virtue of the conditions set forth in this Agreement including its annexes.
2. Eventual financial involvement of Associated institutions must not enter in conflict with public procurement rules. Expenditure incurred by the Associated institutions shall be finally borne by any of the PPs or by the LP in order to be considered as eligible and on condition that this is allowed by national rules.

§ 17

Liability

1. According to § 8 of the Subsidy Contract, the LP bears the overall financial and legal responsibility for the project and for the PPs towards the Managing Authority and towards third parties.
2. Within the partnership, each party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other parties and shall indemnify and hold harmless such other party for and against any liabilities, damages and costs resulting from the non-compliance of its duties and obligations as set forth in this Agreement and its annexes or of other legal norms. Eventual repayment of undue funds by the PP to the LP, for which the LP is liable towards the Managing Authority is ruled in § 18 of the present Agreement.
3. Towards third parties the LP shall assume sole liability, including liability for damage or injury of any kind sustained by them while the project is being carried out as stipulated in § 8.4 of the Subsidy Contract. The LP is entitled to subrogate against the PP that caused the damage. The PP causing damage shall be liable to the LP therefore.
4. The parties to this contract accept that the Managing Authority cannot be under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever held liable for damage or injury sustained by the staff or property of the LP or one of its PPs while the project is being carried out. No claims can be accepted by the Managing Authority for compensation or increases in payment in connection with such damage or injury.
5. No party shall be held liable for not complying with obligations ensuing from this Agreement in case of *force majeure* as described in § 26 of this Agreement.

§ 18

Non-fulfilment of obligations or delay, irregularities

1. Every PP is obliged to promptly inform the LP and to provide the latter with all necessary details should there be events that could jeopardise the implementation of the project.

2. Should one of the PPs be in default, the LP shall admonish the respective PP to comply with its obligations within a maximum of one month. The LP shall make any effort to contact the PP in resolving the difficulties including seeking the assistance of the Managing Authority/Joint Technical Secretariat.
3. Should the non-fulfilment of obligations continue, the LP may decide to exclude the PP concerned from the project, prior approval of the other PPs. The Managing Authority via the Joint Technical Secretariat shall be informed immediately if the LP intends to exclude a PP from the project. Request of withdrawing a PP must be endorsed by the Monitoring Committee.
4. The excluded PP is obliged to refund to the LP any programme funds received which it cannot prove on the day of exclusion that they were used for the implementation of the project and any damage to the remaining project partnership due to its exclusion.
5. The excluded PP has to keep documents for audit purposes according to what stated in §10.1 of the present Agreement.
6. The LP and all PPs are obliged to compensate each other for those damages that may result from culpable non-performance or malperformance of any of their obligations under the present Agreement, in particular what foreseen in §5, §6 and §17.2.
7. In case of non-fulfilment of a PP's obligation having financial consequences for the funding of the project as a whole, the LP may demand compensation from the responsible PP to cover the sum involved.
8. In case of irregularities discovered by the Managing Authority or by the Certifying Authority during the day-to-day project management, in case the Managing Authority is notified of such irregularities as well as in case of breach of contract or infringement of provisions it is based on, or in case that an on-the-spot check or provision of information previously not existing bring to the conclusion that some expenditure previously validated and already paid out by the Certifying Authority might be declared as non-eligible, the LP will be asked - according to §19 of the present Agreement - to repay the subsidy in whole or in part if the funds have been already paid out. The obligation of PPs to repay the LP is regulated in §19 of this Agreement.
9. If decommitment of funds applies and the Monitoring Committee decides that ERDF funds allocated to projects have to be reduced, the PPs herewith agree that the deduction shall be imputed to those PPs that have contributed to the decommitment of funds unless a different decision is taken by the Monitoring Committee. Deduction of funds shall be done in a way not to jeopardise future involvement of PPs and implementation of activities.

§ 19

Demand for repayment of undue funds

1. Should the Managing Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Subsidy Contract demand the repayment of subsidy already transferred to the LP, every PP is obliged to transfer its portion of undue amount to the LP. The LP shall, without delay, forward the letter by which the Managing Authority has asserted the repayment claim and notify every PP of the amount repayable. Alternatively and when possible, the repayment amount will be calculated against the next payment of the Managing Authority to the LP or, where applicable, remaining payments can be suspended. In case repayment is

deemed as necessary, this repayment falls due within three months following the date of the letter by which the Managing Authority asserts the repayment claim to the LP. The LP shall be entitled to set an internal deadline in order to meet the Managing Authority request. The amount repayable shall be subject to interest according to § 10.3 of the Subsidy Contract; further provisions of the Subsidy Contract shall apply by analogy.

2. In case that no PP can be held responsible for the request for repayment, and if the project Steering Committee's proposal to distribute the repayment of subsidy among the partners is rejected, the amount requested shall be apportioned between all PPs pro rata to their project share (i.e.: the amount of ERDF they have been granted according to the approved application form).
3. Bank charges incurred by the repayment of amounts due to the Managing Authority via the LP shall be borne entirely by the concerned partner.

§ 20

Ownership - Use of outputs

1. Ownership, title and industrial and intellectual property rights in the results of the project and the reports and other documents relating to it shall, depending on the applicable national law, vest in the LP and/or its PPs.
2. Where several members of the partnership (LP and/or PPs) have jointly carried out work generating outputs and where their respective share of the work cannot be ascertained, they shall have joint ownership on it/them.
3. In case of joint ownership all costs/expenditures and investments will be shared equally or on a percentage basis.
Provisions applying shall be in line with § 25 of this Agreement.
4. Outputs as covered within the meaning of Art. 57 of (EC) Regulation No 1083/2006 cannot be transferred within the period set by this Regulation.
5. The LP and PPs ensure that the project outputs are available for the Managing Authority for further spreading and for making them available to the public.

§ 21

Revenues

1. In case of earnings generated during the project implementation through the sales of products and merchandise participation fees or any other provision of services against payment must be deducted from the amount of costs incurred by the project. This deduction will be made in full or pro-rata depending on whether it was generated entirely or partly by the co-financed project.
2. Should the project be identified as revenue-generating in accordance with the definition provided in Article 55 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Managing Authority is entitled to deduct from the final request for payment the estimated net revenue that may be generated by the project.

3. In order to define the amount to be deducted, the Managing Authority shall take into account the criteria listed in Article 55 (2) and (3) of the aforementioned Regulation (and its amendments).
4. Where, at the latest three years after the closure of the programme, it is established that a project has generated revenue that has not been taken into account, such net revenue shall - in line with Art 55 (4) of the aforementioned regulation (and its amendments)- be deducted by the certifying authority at the latest on submission of the documents for the operational programme referred to in Article 89(1)(a). The application for payment of the final balance shall be corrected accordingly.
5. In order to comply with § 21 of this Agreement, each PP shall communicate to the LP the correct amount of generated revenue.

§ 22

Confidentiality

1. Although the nature of the implementation of the project is public, information exchanged in the context of its implementation between the LP and the PPs, the PPs themselves or the MA/JTS shall be confidential.
2. The LP and the PPs commit to taking measures to ensure that all staff members carrying out the work respect the confidential nature of this information, and do not disseminate it, pass it on to third parties or use it without prior written consent of the LP and the PP institution that provided the information.

§ 23

Disputes between partners

1. In case of dispute between the LP and its PPs or among PPs, presumption of good faith from all parties will be privileged.
2. Should a dispute arise between the LP and its PPs or among PPs of the project, the affected parties will endeavour to find a solution on an amicable way. Disputes will be referred to the group to be set up by the work packets leaders in order to reach a settlement.
3. The LP will inform the other PPs and may, on its own initiative or upon request of a PP, ask the MA via the JTS for advice.
4. Should a compromise through mediation of the group to be set up by the work packets leaders not be possible, MONITORING COMMITTEE members of the country of the PPs affected can be involved.

§ 24

Working languages

1. The working language(s) of the partnership shall be English.
2. Any official internal document of the project and all communication to the MA/JTS shall be made available in English.

3. The present Agreement is concluded in English. In case of translation of the present Agreement into another language, the English version shall be the binding one.

§ 25

Applicable law and Litigation

1. This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the country where the Lead Partner is located.
2. In case of litigation between the LP and the PP, presumption of the good faith from the LP and PP will be privileged and, prior to litigation, mediation procedures shall be set in place.
3. In case of litigation the exclusive venue and court of jurisdiction shall be the seat of the LP at Kempten, Germany (location: court of Kempten, Residenzplatz 4-6, 87435 Kempten (Allgäu)). Legal proceedings will be held in German.

§ 26

Force majeure

1. Force majeure shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional event affecting the fulfilment of any obligation under this Agreement, which is beyond the control of the LP and PPs and cannot be overcome despite their reasonable endeavours. Any default of a product or service or delays in making them available for the purpose of performing this contract and affecting the project performance, including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance of product or services, labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties do not constitute force majeure.
2. If the LP or PPs are subject to force majeure liable to affect the fulfilment of its/their obligations under this Agreement, the LP shall notify the MA via the JTS without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.
3. Neither the LP nor the PPs shall be considered to be in breach of their obligations to execute the project if it has been prevented from complying by force majeure. Where LP or PPs cannot fulfil their obligations to execute the project due to force majeure, grant for accepted eligible expenditure occurred may be made only for those activities which have actually been executed up to the date of the event identified as force majeure. All necessary measures shall be taken to limit damage to the minimum.

§ 27

Ineffective Provision

1. If any provision in this Agreement should be wholly or partly ineffective, the parties to this Agreement undertake to replace the ineffective provision by an effective provision which comes as close as possible to the purpose of the ineffective provision.
2. In case of matters that are not ruled by this Agreement, the parties agree to find a joint solution.

§ 28

Amendment of the Agreement

1. This Agreement shall only be amended in writing by means of an amendment to that effect signed by all parties involved.
2. The LP and the PPs ensure that in case of modification of provisions mentioned in §1 of the Subsidy Contract, updated rights and obligations derived thereof shall apply.

§ 29

Lapse of time

1. Legal proceedings concerning any issue ensuing from this Agreement may not be lodged before the courts more than three years after the claim was constituted unless the chosen applicable law as in § 24 of this Agreement states differently.

§ 30

Concluding provisions

1. The present Agreement must be signed by the LP and PPs and evidence of it has to be provided in the Start-up report (according to § 7.2 of the Subsidy Contract between MA and LP).
2. Any costs, fees or taxes not eligible or any other duties arising from the conclusion or the implementation of this Agreement shall be borne by the LP and PPs.
3. Three copies will be made of this Agreement, of which each party and the JTS keeps one.

§ 31

Domicile

1. To the effect of this Agreement, the PPs shall irrevocably choose domicile at the address stated in Section 4 of the Application Form (Annex 1 to this Agreement) where any official notifications can be lawfully served.
2. Any change of domicile shall be forwarded to the LP within 15 days following the change of address by registered mail.

§ 32

Clause of bilateral Agreement

1. The LP concludes a CEP-REC partnership agreement with every single PP. Each of those agreements concluded between LP and any of the PPs are accepted by all other PPs and replace a joint partnership agreement.

Drawn up at Kempten (Allgäu)

Lead partner: Energy and Environmental Centre Allgaeu (eza!)

.....
Name(s) Signer(s) Lead Partner and function

.....
Signature and Stamp

.....
Place and Date

Partner 16: Trnava self-governing region

.....
Name(s) Signer(s) Partner and function

.....
Signature and Stamp

.....
Place and Date

Annexes:

- **Annex I:** the latest approved version of the application form including the fulfilment of conditions approved by the Monitoring Committee on 16 August 2012 in Vienna including enclosures
- **Annex II:** the Subsidy Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner;
- **Annex III** detailed work plan and timetable of activities per project partner;
- **Annex IV:** partner 's budget split per work package, budget line and reporting period;

The following documents, which are an integral part of this Agreement, can be downloaded from the programme's internet web page: www.central2013.eu:

- Control and Audit Guidelines;
- Application manual⁴;
- Implementation manual;
- EC Regulations.

⁴ The specific Manual of the application round in which the project has been approved applies.