

“Global Challenges Centers” are innovative multistakeholder partnerships for sustainable development on community level/city level.

Global Challenges Centers are decentrally managed **multistakeholder partnerships**/coalitions of local authorities, civil society organizations, universities, schools, companies (corporate social responsibility activities and social entrepreneurship) and individuals, addressing sustainable development issues through innovative combinations of **public and private, local and remote resources** (e.g. by including diaspora).

They are connected globally by

- a **shared vision of collaborative global commons wealth generation through local action**,
- a **global sustainable development efforts documentation system** (including financial resources, time/volunteering, knowledge, emotional resources (art), etc., see <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/latest-news/192-rio20-issues-cluster-on-innovation-presentation-a-launch-of-151515-un-civil-society-partnership> and <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/glocha-initiatives/collaborative-global-commons> for more info) and
- **global quality standards** regarding transparency, accountability and participation enforced by a governance structure that is going to be developed by the Centers in due time

The Global Challenges Centers **performance indicators** and goals are linked with **major UN programs and objectives** (Sustainable Development Goals system, post2015 development agenda, etc.) and in line with RCC priorities and programs in the field of “Infrastructure and Energy” and “Economic and Social Development”.

The concept of Global Challenges centers has been developed by **International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)** www.glocha.info (in the context of Rio+20 Issues Cluster on Innovation <http://uncsd.iisd.org/news/rio20-issues-cluster-on-innovation-produces-brief-on-innovation-for-sustainable-development/>) as a **global governance innovation for resource mobilization of global civil society for addressing global challenges through local action**.

Basic elements of the concept are

- **future orientation**,
- **global literacy**,
- individual and collective **global social responsibility**,
- **enlightened self interest** in **global commons growth**,
- focus on **knowledge, youth** and **culture/music** combined with
- the aspect of **competition** among different stakeholders and different centers regarding global commons growth performance - which introduces an **entertaining** and **stimulating** aspect for everybody involved.

In the context of Southeast European countries there exist great potentials of such Global Challenges Centers for **attracting intellectual and financial resources of diaspora** for sustainable development efforts in SEE (discussed at 2 workshops in Sarajevo¹) and for **promotion of intercultural dialogue** (discussed at a workshop in Maribor/Slovenia February 2012²) and **global citizenship education** (discussed at the conference “Teaching Climate Change and the United Nations system”, May 2010 in Belgrade³)

Due to excellent working relations of IAAI with RCC experts and with a view to potential funding opportunities and inspirations and synergies for concept development through EU programs like e.g. **Smart Cities and Communities program** http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/smart_cities_en.htm and **IPA**, a **pilot network of Global Challenges centers in SEE countries** shall be established by IAAI in cooperation with RCC with **accompanying research and evaluation activities** as a basis for further **global roll-out of the initiative** in coming years.

RCC and IAAI will work on this initiative together with IAAI focusing on administrative/management issues and RCC on policy learning and regional cooperation aspects.

Funding needs: 1 Mio € for 3 years

¹ International Workshop: Mobilize Diaspora 4SD - Mobilization of Intellectual and Financial Resources from Diaspora for Knowledge Based Sustainable Development in SEE, 12.10.2011, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/latest-news/167-sarajevo-workshop> and International Workshop “Scientific Diaspora and ICT- Using Modern Information and Communication Technologies to Harness the Potential of Southeast Europe’s Scientific Diaspora” organized June 2009 by ASO Ljubljana, RCC, UNESCO Venice Office and CeGD (see <http://www.aso.zsi.at/bg/veranstaltung/3184.html>)

² <http://www.aso.zsi.at/aktuelles/3925.html>

³ http://videlectures.net/ccandun2010_belgrade/