

Romania, on its way to a Sustainable Society

This is the fourth newsletter of the project: "Romania, on its way to a Sustainable Society".

The newsletter is spread by e-mail and also downloadable on the project website: www.romaniadurabila.net.

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Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Starting with this newsletter we would like to introduce some other initiatives which are currently taken in Romania in the field of sustainable development. From now on, each newsletter will include one article dedicated to these Initiatives for Sustainable Development

One of the non-governmental organizations, Viitor Plus, decided to support the initiative of establishing a NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – NASD.

This will be a platform of NGOs which have an interest in or are focusing their activities towards sustainable development of Romania. As one of the first activities a workshop has been held in Iasi. On the next page you'll find more information about this initiative.

Romanian National Sustainable Development Strategy - NSDS

As you know, the NSDS is currently under revision. The Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development together with the National Centre for Sustainable Development have nearly finalized all items in order to present the new strategy of sustainable development.

Currently a final draft of the final document is available. It can be found on the strategy website: <http://strategia.ncsd.ro/>.

The NSDS will be presented to the Romanian Parliament and it will follow the official procedure for becoming a national law.

SSI- Romania-2008

has been presented at two international conferences. The first one was in Iasi, Romania and the second one in Moscow, Russian Federation. Both conferences offered us a great opportunity for introducing the advantages of using SSI as a tool for monitoring and planning sustainable development at different levels.



Page two of this newsletter includes a more detailed description of these events.

FUTURE STEPS

In the coming months we will continue the data collection process for developing the Romanian Regional SSI. The regional SSI will be developed for all 8 regions of Romania and will focus on North West region. We will work closely with Regional Development Agency from Cluj-Napoca, Regional Environmental Protection Agency Cluj-Napoca and the Environmental Guard Office, Cluj-Napoca. The regional SSI will be able to express the state-of-the-art of regional developments and will be a very useful tool for planning for sustainable development. It can also serve as a benchmarking tool for regional development.

Besides this, we will also focus on promoting the SSI concept at different levels and among different stakeholders. A stakeholders meeting with representatives of all ministries will be organised where we will introduce the national SSI as a monitoring and planning tool for sustainable development and different ways of using the SSI by different ministries. Furthermore, we will organise several meetings with the initiators of the National Alliance for Sustainable Development for strengthening their capacities for monitoring the implementation process of different policies.

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Promoting SSI at International Conferences



IASHINGTON

Iasi, Romania, 1 – 4 September 2008

September 1 - 4, 2008, Cosmin Briciu and Ciprian Popovici took part at IASHINGTON. This was an international conference organized in Iasi by AISEC-Iasi and Viitor Plus with the support of several companies and local and national authorities. The conference had two target groups: one was represented by students and young researchers and the one was represented by NGOs.



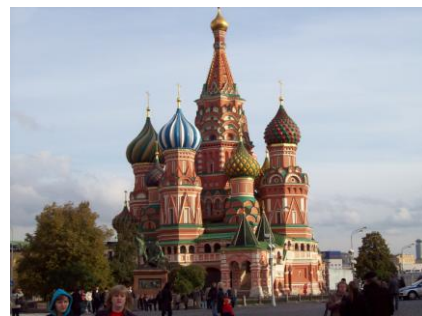
The SSI project team has been involved in facilitating the conference's workshops, presenting SSI-Romania 2008, introducing the SSI usage possibilities for NGOs, facilitating conversation, and helping NGO's to develop new project ideas with future cooperation.

The conference was a good opportunity to share our experience in the field of sustainability by presenting the Romania, on its way to a sustainable society project, SSI- Romania-2008 and our future activities that include the Regional SSI for the North-West region of Romania.

The participants perceived SSI as being a very good civil society initiative for assessing the state-of-the-art of Romanian society, for monitoring the implementation of different policies for sustainability and for designing concrete development targets for future policies.

Measuring and fostering the Progress of Societies: A new approach for CIS and Eastern European Countries

Moscow, Russian Federation, 29 – 30 September, 2008



This conference was organized by OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) together with the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) and the Academy of Labour and Social Relations in Moscow.

More than 100 participants attended the conference. Discussions were grouped in four sections. The first section was dedicated to the importance of measuring progress for policy making; the second section focused on defining the progress; the third and the fourth sections focused on aspects that are most important for CIS and Eastern European Countries to be measured for understanding and defining progress and the existing tools that are currently used.



Geurt van de Kerk, together with Arthur Manuel and Ciprian Popovici introduced the concept of SSI and its applicability in general, for all the countries and presented the experiences in Romania.

The SSI-data for all 27 countries which have been invited to the conference, were introduced by Enrico Giovannini, Chief statistician of the OECD. The paper which was submitted to this conference can be downloaded from our project's website www.romaniadurabila.net. More information can also be found on the conference's website: http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/2008/konferenc/inf_start_eng.htm.