



# Newsletter 6

June 2009

## Regional Sustainable Society Index – RSSI-Romania-2009

We are very glad to inform you about the launching of the **Regional Sustainable Society Index-Romania-2009**.

The publication was presented in the conference „Policies and programmes for a sustainable regional development”, conference that took place in Cluj-Napoca this year during the 4-5<sup>th</sup> of June.



This new index was developed by the Sustainable Society Foundation from Holland and represents the first index in the world implemented at regional level. During the index development and implementation, our team worked closely with our partners: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Housing, National Institute of Statistics, National Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Development Agencies and Regional Environmental Protection Agencies of all eight regions, RDA North-West, Regional Statistical Office in Cluj, REPA Cluj, Environmental Guard Cluj and SSF.

*“I am happy to note that such instrument is already now in my hands: the Regional Sustainable Society Index for Romania, RSSI-Romania-2009. In this one year there has been a rapidly growing awareness and concern for sustainability. However, on regional level a concrete touchstone for the policy, programs and plans with respect to sustainability was still lacking”*

*Nicolae Nemirschi – Minister of Environment*

## Policies and Programmes for a Regional Sustainable Development

We were very glad to have in the conference representatives from the central, regional and local public authorities, private companies, non-governmental organizations, education and research institutes and other stakeholders interested in the topic.



The conference objective was to start a debate upon the way the society actors (public authorities, businesses, and social society representatives) react to challenges generated by the use of sustainability concept in the process of implementing and development policies.

The conference included three specific sessions with respect to different themes:

- Session I: Governmental politics and programs for sustainable development, session that was reserved for central public authorities;
- Session II: North-West regional sustainable development, session reserved for regional and local public authorities;
- Session III: Sustainable development social partners, session reserved for private companies, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders.

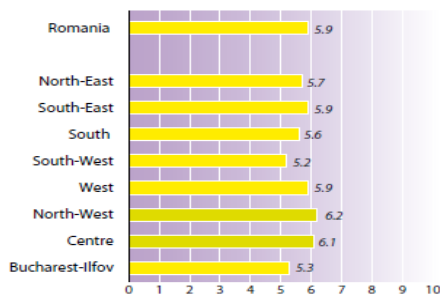
In each session we had several presentations, the participants addressed questions and we all tried to find answers to all of the topics that were raised.



## RSSI Results

RSSI-Romania-2009 contains a complete analysis of the Romanian society from the sustainability point of view for each of its 8<sup>th</sup> development regions. The index offers a clear view upon the most relevant aspects of the Romanian contemporaneous society and tries to show the gaps between the current situation and also the targets that have to be reached to raise the regional sustainable development level of Romania.

Overall scores RSSI-Romania-2009



On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 represents the lack of sustainability and 10 represent maximum sustainability, the development regions of Romania scored between 5.2 and 6.2.

For each development region of Romania, we calculated scores and by doing the average sum of all 8<sup>th</sup> regions we obtained for Romania an overall score of 5.9 ways below the maximum score of sustainability.

The regional index is based on a set of 26 indicators that try to cover the important aspects of life quality and sustainability

## North-West region results

*“ The regional Sustainable Society Index – RSSI-Romania-2009 – as it has been presented here, is a most welcome tool to support the way to sustainability, for our region, as well as for all development regions in Romania. We are glad the North-West region was chosen as the first region for developing its own RSSI.”*

*Claudiu Coşier – RDA North-West director*

RSSI has been realised in only six months, thanks to the support and help of our project partners: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Housing, National Institute of Statistics, National Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Development Agencies and Regional Environmental Protection Agencies of all eight regions, RDA North-West, Regional Statistical Office in Cluj, REPA Cluj, and Environmental Guard Cluj. In the process of developing and implementing this index, it is very important to understand the scores for each indicator and the background data that were used in the scoring process, process that for some indicators was impossible because the lack of reliable data.

The highest overall score from all 8<sup>th</sup> regions was obtained by the North-West region. This means that the N-W region is in front of the other regions on the way of assuring a development towards a sustainable future.

For the North-West region, indicator scores can be observed in the graph below. The spider web represents the level of sustainability from 0 to 10.

