



Newsletter 1

January 2008

Romania, on its way to a Sustainable Society

Happy New Year

We wish you a Happy New Year!

We hope that this year will bring a lot of fruitful activities that contribute to a more and more sustainable society.

This is the first newsletter of the project: "Romania, on its way to a Sustainable Society", through which we like to inform you about the progress of the project and (near) future events.

This newsletter is spread by e-mail and also downloadable on the project website:

www.romaniadurabila.net

Sincerely Yours,

Ralph Veraart,
project manager



Opening

The opening of the project took place in Bucharest on the 8th of October, 2007.

Dr. Vergil Voineagu, president of the National Institute of Statistics, held the opening speech. Mrs. Teia Catana, head of the Sustainable Development unit of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development underlined the importance of the project, fitting the strategy of the Romanian Government. Prof. Dr. Razvan Chereches, executive director of the Center for Health Policy and Public Health of the University in Cluj-Napoca outlined the plans in general. Dr. Calin Georgescu, executive director of the National Center for Sustainable Development, explained the plans for the development of the renewed sustainability strategy in Romania. Mr. Iwan Rutjes,

representative of the Dutch Embassy in Romania, underlined the support of The Netherlands for this project.

Cooperation

The following partners are contributing to this project: The National Institute of Statistics, The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, The Ministry of Development, Public Work and Housing – Unit of Strategy and Coordination of the Regional Operational Programme, The National Centre for Sustainable Development, National and Regional Environmental Protection Agencies, The National Environmental Guard, The North West Regional Development Agency and Universities of Bucharest, Baia Mare and Cluj-Napoca.



3 phases of the project

This project consists of three phases:

- **Publication**
- **Promotion**
- **Utilization**

During the first phase data are gathered and processed for the publication of the Romanian Sustainable Society Index, SSI and the index will be published. At the moment we are in this phase of the project. During the next phase the SSI will be promoted through presentations and the media and during the last phase the SSI will be utilized.

Workshops will be organized for representatives of NGOs, politicians and teachers. During the workshops the participants will be made familiar with the usefulness of the SSI as a policy making and communicational tool and as an educational tool.

A **photo competition** will be organized for the public at large. Read more about this at the last page of this newsletter...

A **concluding conference** will be organized at the end of this project.

The total project duration is 24 month.

National & Regional Index

Soon after the opening of the project and in discussion with the parties involved the request came to develop, next to the SSI on national level, also an SSI on regional level. The North-West region has welcomed this initiative and became the pilot region for the regional index.

Together with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Environmental Protection Agency and the National Centre for Sustainable Development additional indicators for the index have been elaborated.

On regional level the Regional Development Agency, the Regional Environmental Protection Agency and the National Environmental Guard of Cluj-Napoca have discussed possible additional indicators and assisted with data collection. The project has also been introduced to the Board of the Regional Development Agency and the County Councils and Prefectures of the North West region.

Together with the National Institute of Statistics available data for the indicators of the index, both on national and regional level have been collected.

“The North-West region has welcomed this initiative and became the pilot region for the regional index.”

Gathering & Processing Data

The National Institute of Statistics provided a great amount of data. At this moment about 90% of the data is gathered and processed, soon the scores of the SSI can be calculated.

We can already state that the updated SSI for Romania will show an overall better score than the score for Romania in the SSI - 2006.

See for more information about the SSI: www.sustainablesocietyindex.com

The Romanian SSI is built up of 5 categories, 22 indicators and 3 additional indicators. For the indicators a score between 0 and 10 will be calculated, like a 'report mark'.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.romaniadurabila.net

This project is financially supported by the Social Transformation Programme (Matra) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Structure of the SSI

The SSI has **5 categories**:

- I Personal Development
- II Clean Environment
- III Well-balanced Society
- IV Sustainable Use of Resources
- V Sustainable World

Each category consists of several indicators. The SSI has **22 indicators**:

1. Healthy Life
2. Sufficient Food
3. Sufficient to Drink
4. Safe Sanitation
5. Education Opportunities
6. Gender Equality
7. Air Quality
8. Surface Water Quality
9. Land Quality

10. Good Governance
11. Unemployment
12. Population Growth
13. Income Distribution
14. Public Debt
15. Waste Recycling
16. Use of Renewable Water Resources
17. Consumption of Renewable Energy
18. Forest Area
19. Preservation of Biodiversity
20. Emission of Greenhouse Gases
21. Ecological Footprint
22. International Cooperation

And **3 additional indicators**:

1. Expenditure on Research and Development
2. Organic Agriculture
3. Gross Domestic Product

Workshops

Two workshops have been organized in November 2007 for students of universities of Baia Mare and Cluj-Napoca. The students were informed to assist with the data gathering.

The students have worked in groups. Each group has investigated one of the five categories of the SSI and written a research report. All the indicators have been covered.

The project team has verified the relevance of the results and (some of the) data can and will be used in the publication of the Romanian SSI.

Photo competition...

A photo competition with the theme sustainability will be launched May this year. The competition will be open for everybody, there will be two categories of participants: one for photo-lovers and one for professionals.



The group of students and lecturers in front of the castle in Arcalia, Bistrita, where the first workshop was held.

The conditions for the photo competition will be published on the project website: www.romaniadurabila.net at the beginning of May 2008.

We are looking forward to your participation!