

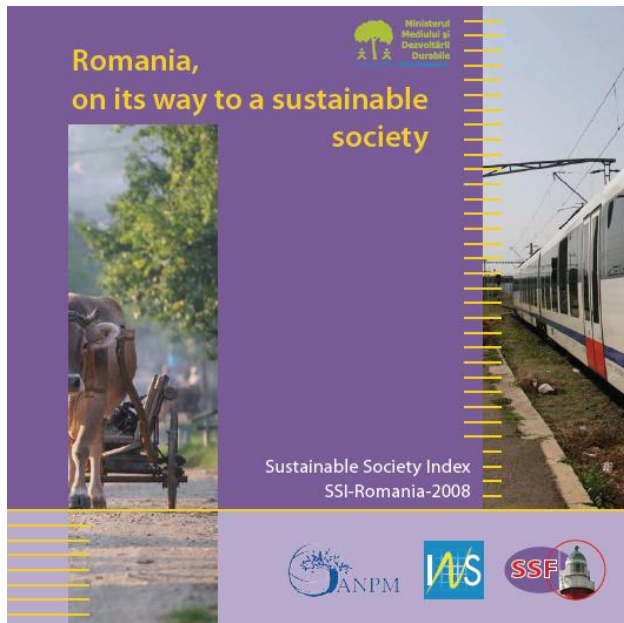


Newsletter 3

July 2008 2008

Sustainable Society Index – SSI-Romania-2008

We are happy to announce that the **Sustainable Society Index-Romania-2008** was launched during a seminar in Bucharest on the 25th of June.



The publication, in Romanian as well as in English, can be downloaded for free from the project website: www.romaniadurabila.net

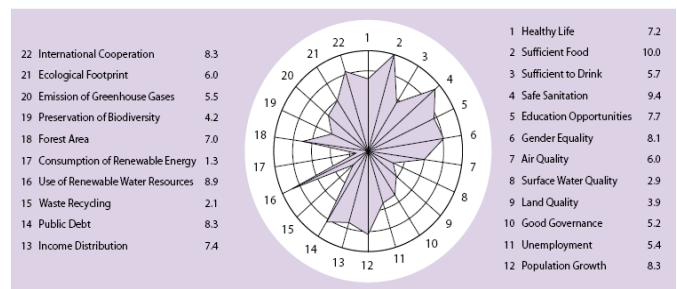
This event was held in the conference hall of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics with the participation of representatives from: The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, The National Environmental Protection Agency, The National Institute of Statistics, The Netherlands Embassy in Romania, Sustainable Society Foundation, mass media and a large number of people interested in this subject.

Besides the launching of SSI-Romania-2008, the seminar also focused on the National Environmental Action Plan - NEAP, a document prepared by the National Environmental Protection Agency. As the title already indicates, the NEAP is a document which gives a framework for actions which aim at improving the environmental situation of Romania.

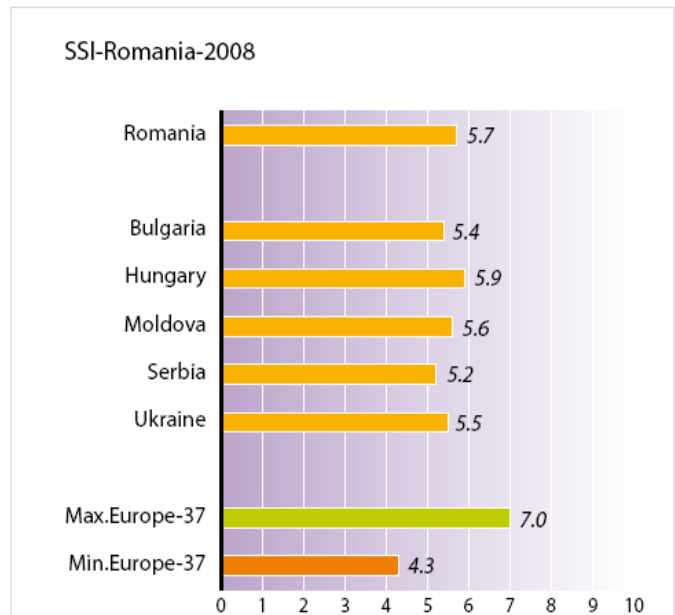
Romania scores a 5.7

Romania's overall score on the Sustainable Society Index for 2008 is 5.7. On a scale from 0 to 10, there is much room for improvement and no less need to do so.

The spider web below shows the values of the 22 indicators of which the SSI is built up. Some indicators score pretty well, some are very low. This information will help to formulate adequate policy targets and projects for the development towards sustainability.



The publication Romania, on its way to a sustainable society, gives a lot of information about the SSI, the actual level of sustainability for each of the 22 indicators for Romania, as well as developments over time and comparisons with neighbouring countries and Europe.





"I am proud that next to the SSI on national level, Romania is developing sustainability indexes on regional level. Soon the first regional SSI will be published for the Romanian North-West region, to be followed by a SSI for each of the other regions of our country."

Attila Korodi, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania

Regional Sustainable Society Index – RSSI

After the launch of the national SSI, the project team, together with a large number of stakeholders, started to work for developing the Regional SSI. This new index will be a pilot since the SSI concept has not yet been used at regional level. We will apply the SSI concept and structure to all 8 regions of Romania. North West region of Romania was chosen as the region that we will focus this RSSI on. This means that its scores will be compared with the national SSI scores and the scores of the other regions.

Like the national one, the RSSI will include a set of indicators which will allow us to easily compare the regions of Romania among themselves. Besides this set of indicators, we will define additional regional indicators which will reflect the particularities of the North West region of Romania.

For developing RSSI we are cooperating with regional stakeholders from the North West Development Region of Romania, such as: Regional Development Agency, Regional Environmental Protecting Agency, Environmental Guard, Babes-Bolyai University, Technical University, University of Agriculture and civil society representatives. Besides these, we will try to involve more stakeholders among which: the representatives of North West Intermediate Bodies for each Operational Programme and the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce.

Promoting SSI

In the last month, the national SSI was presented to a large number of people and institutions. Reactions started to come and people are very eager to know about sustainability. This means that our efforts to promote the concept were not in vain so far.

We will continue our efforts of promoting the national and regional SSI by giving presentations, meeting people and institutions that are interested in it, initiating discussions about sustainability and helping different stakeholders in their efforts of measuring the sustainability level of their societies.



Mr. Geurt van de Kerk offering the first copy of SSI-Romania-2008 to Mr. Octavian Popescu, head of Sustainable Development Department within the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Our close cooperation with the representatives of Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, Regional Development Agencies, Universities and other stakeholders will continue in the future.

Viitor Plus

Adoptă 1, 2, 3.. copaci
trimite SMS la 848 (2€ / SMS*)
Împreună vom crește o pădure!
detalii pe www.viitorplus.ro

Stocul necesar: 10€ pentru adăverea la materialitate a unui copac (10 ani de înălțime)

*transfer oferit gratuit de Vodafone, Orange și Cosmote.
În rețelele Vodafone și Orange nu se percepe TVA. În rețeaua Cosmote se percepe TVA.

În parteneriat cu: News Outdoor, Impression, PHGENEX

Viitor Plus is a NGO actively involved in promoting sustainability as the main concept for development of Romania. They are currently running a national campaign for adopting trees. For more information please visit: www.viitorplus.ro



CONTACT PERSON:
Ciprian Popovici

ADDRESS:
Fintinele 18,
400294 Cluj-Napoca
Romania

PHONE:
+40 (0)748 417750

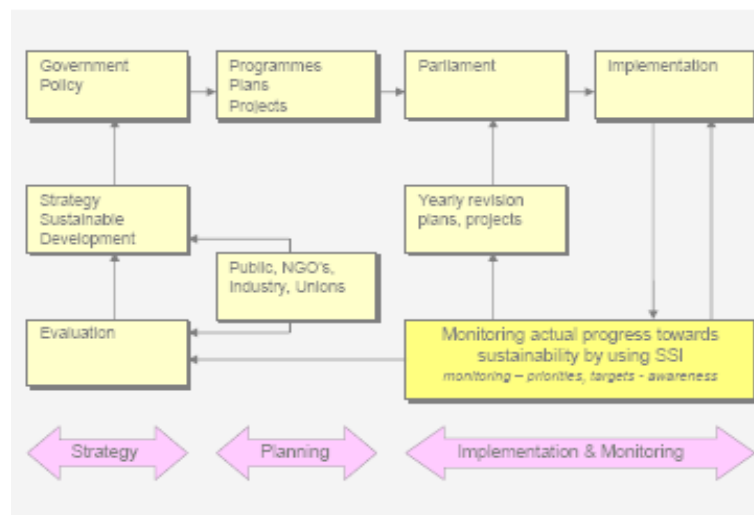
E-MAIL:
ciprian.popovici@
greenpartners.ro

Using SSI

We will organize several meetings and workshops where the SSI concept and especially the ways of using SSI at national and regional level will be introduced. Each stakeholder will be aware about the many possibilities of using SSI in their daily life. The SSI-Romania-2008 can be used by politicians, national and regional authorities, educational institutes, civil society organizations and the public at large. There are many ways to use the SSI-Romania-2008.

Authorities on national and regional level can use SSI-Romania-2008 to:

- enlarge the awareness of the public about the extent of sustainability of the country or region,
- use it as an instrument for policy development, selecting which issues need most attention and setting targets for each indicator,
- assign each indicator to a Cabinet Member, making her or him responsible for achieving the set targets,
- monitor progress of policy implementation and stimulate reaching the objectives set by the national or regional government,
- compare the scores of countries or regions in order to learn from each other and to stimulate each other to make progress on the road to sustainability.



Policy cycle with respect to Sustainable Development

You can find us 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

Education institutes – schools, high-schools, special education institutes, universities and research institutes – can make use of SSI-Romania-2008 within their work. SSI enables them to:

- open the debate about sustainability in Romania,
- teach students about sustainability,
- stimulate research and development on all aspects of sustainability.

Civil society organisations, such as NGOs or CBOs, can easily use SSI-Romania-2008 as a tool for defining their strategies, programmes and action plans and to facilitate communication between actor networks at all levels. Civil society organisations have gained an important position in Romanian society as partners for authorities in implementing different policies and for working towards improving different aspects of society. Due to this, it is essential for these organisations to have a tool which reflects the level of sustainability of Romanian society, its strengths and weaknesses.

The Sustainable Society Foundation, based in The Netherlands, has been established to stimulate and promote developments on the way to sustainability. One of the main goals of the SSF is the further development and use of the Sustainable Society Index – SSI. Besides this, SSF is involved in various other fields of promoting sustainability by giving lectures, contributing to international conferences, cooperating with educational institutes.