



Newsletter 5

February 2009

This is the fifth 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.

You can subscribe to receive our project newsletter by sending an email to ciprian.popovici@greenpartners.ro with the subject "Subscription for SSI newsletter".

Romania, on its way to a sustainable society

Our project is now in its second year of implementation.

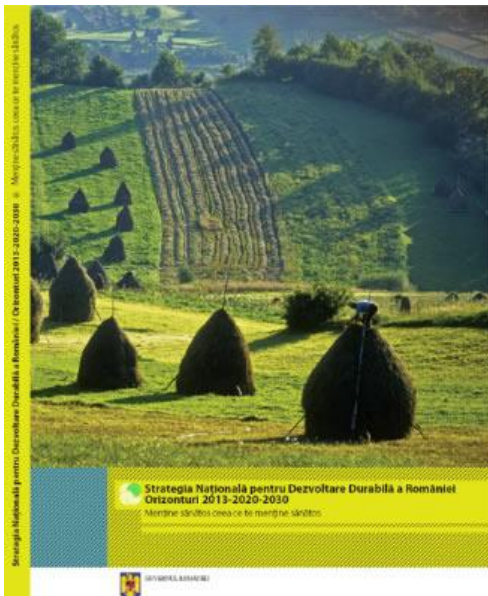
After publishing the SSI-Romania-2008 in June 2008, we are now working on the development of a similar index but at regional level. While focusing on the North-West region, we will calculate the scores for all the regions of development of Romania, compare these scores with each other and with the national scores.

The last three months we have been working on collecting the data for each of the eight regions. The Regional Development Agency (RDA) North-West, the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), the Regional Environmental Protection Agency (REPA) North-West and the Environmental Guard Cluj, along with our national partners, have been a great support in the process of data collecting.

The set of indicators for the regions is – for reasons of comparison – as far as possible – similar to the set on national level. However, some indicators have less relevance on regional level and thus have been left out. For some indicators the available data are slightly different from the national data. And again some additional indicators will be included.

Currently we almost finished the collecting of data for the regional SSI. We hope that by the end of May, the regional SSI will be presented and published.

We will keep you informed about further developments in and around our project.



Romanian National Sustainable Development Strategy - NSDS

The NSDS is a joint project of the Government of Romania through the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Development Program through the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSD).

The Strategy has been approved by the Romanian Government on 12 November 2008 and presented on 16 December in Bucharest. Ciprian Popovici, our project manager, attended the launching event. During the development phase of the Strategy, our project team has been actively involved. We participated in public debates, in a national conference on sustainability organised in Iasi by several NGOs which are working in this field and in different meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the National Institute of Statistics and NSCD.



Romania, on its way to a Sustainable Society

ADDRESS:
Fîntînele 18,
400294 Cluj-Napoca,
Romania

PHONE:
+40 (0)748 417750

E-MAIL:
ciprian.popovici@greenpartners.ro

You can find us on the web!

Visit us at:

www.romaniadurabila.net

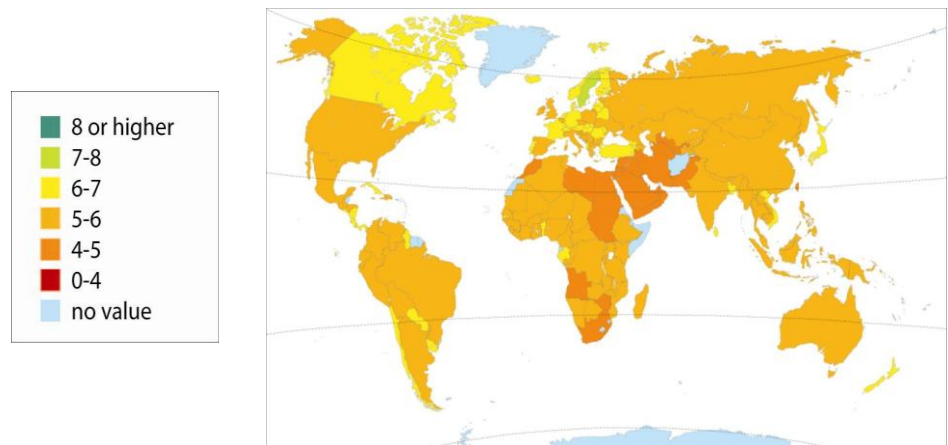
This project is financially supported by the Social Transformation Programme (Matra) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

International Sustainable Society Index – 2008

December 2008, the Sustainable Society Foundation has published its two-yearly update of the Sustainable Society Index, the SSI, which assesses the sustainability of 151 countries. The SSI combines the main aspects of Quality of Life and Sustainability, which are relevant for development towards sustainability. The world average score is 5.7 on a scale of 0 to 10. For none of the 22 indicators which compose the SSI, full sustainability is achieved, which would mean a 10, expressed by the outer circle of the spider web. The lowest scores of the indicators are for Consumption of Renewable Energy (3.2) and Waste Recycling (1.7). The highest score is for International Cooperation (9.2).

Compared with the results of the SSI-2006, the world has made a very small step towards sustainability. The positive news is that the scores of all 6 indicators of the category Personal Development have increased, be it modestly. However, the largest contribution to the progress comes from Employment and Public Debt, thanks to a worldwide growth of the economy during the period considered.

The bad news is that some issues which may be of decisive importance for this century, are deteriorating. In spite of all plans and targets, the increase in renewable energy production does not keep in step with the rapidly growing energy consumption, resulting in a decrease of the score for the indicator Consumption of Renewable Energy. The emission of greenhouse gases has, also very contrary to all targets set, further increased, resulting in a decrease of the score for this indicator.



On a worldwide scale it is obvious that the direction of indicators that now are in decline, should be reversed urgently to avoid further deterioration. This is particularly important for Emission of Greenhouse Gases and Consumption of Renewable Energy, as well as for Ecological Footprint and Income Distribution.

Inequality in Income Distribution is still growing in many countries and may become a possible threat for a well-balanced society in these countries. Special attention is also needed for the indicator with the lowest score: Waste Recycling. This does not alter the fact that actually all indicators need attention, in one region more than in another.

The website www.sustainablesocietyindex.com gives the data for all 151 countries. The full publication can be downloaded for free from this site.