

**Title: “Developing Process of the
National Assessment Report on Sustainable Development
of Republic of Macedonia”**

For the objectives of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), every member country of UN was supposed to prepare a National Assessment Report on Sustainable Development, respectively, assess its own improvement in the implementation of the recommendations from Agenda 21 and providing sustainable development.

The National Assessment Report should have been carried out according to the Guidelines for NCSD Rio + 10 Assessment (by Earth Council), respectively:

1. to assess the National Strategies on Sustainable Development, from the aspect of management and organization system, institutional capacity, resources, political and legal support;
2. to assess the degree of integration and participation of different sectors and different levels, the coordination mechanisms and similar, during creating and carrying out the sustainable development policies;
3. to define 3 national key issues and assess to what degree they coincide with the Rio Summit commitments;
4. to make an assessment to what extent the environment and sustainable development topics are incorporated in the education system, training and public awareness in the country;
5. to integrate the analyses and recommendations as referred to in the items above in a country vision.

Regarding the sustainable development, The Institute for Sociological, Juridical and Political Research developed "The Conceptual Approach in the Creation and Implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia", but due to the worsened political situation, "The National Strategy for Sustainable Development" was not prepared. Also, the Republic of Macedonia has not established a National Council for Sustainable Development, has not introduced environment and sustainable development education on a national level in the formal education! So, from the very beginning we were faced with obstacles, since we were in a situation when the body (National Council) we have not established yet, should assess something (National Strategy) we have not prepared yet!!!

In order to prepare the Assessment Report, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has appointed the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (as a national coordinator for implementation of the objectives and recommendations from Agenda 21) to coordinate the activities for preparation of the Assessment Report.

In order to avoid the possibility the Assessment Report to reflect only the attitude of the governmental bodies and wanting to comply with the principle of including representatives of all stakeholders in the preparation of the Assessment Report, on an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Government has established a National Preparatory Committee, including representatives of: administrative bodies (central government), local self-government (local government), the sectors: science, education, business/industry, international organizations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations

The Government, again on an initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, has established a Coordination Body, comprised of experts working on reaching sustainable development in certain areas, and representatives of different stakeholders.

The Coordinative Body has had several meetings, with a main objective to establish methodology of work and define sources and manners of data collection. At the meetings it was established that the best data sources are the national development strategic documents in certain areas, such as: National Environment Action Plan, National Health Environment Action Plan, National Strategy for Economic Development of the Republic of Macedonia, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, National Human Report, etc.

As the most appropriate instrument it was decided to prepare a Questionnaire, and the "Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research: was engaged for that purpose. The Institute, in cooperation with the Sustainable Development Department within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, has prepared two types of Questionnaires: one for the government and other state institutions, and another one for the non-governmental sector. It would be interesting to mention that in one occasion, during his visit, a UNDP consultant to whom the Questionnaire was presented said that the Questionnaire should be protected as an Intellectual Property.

The Questionnaires were divided in several topics, out of which the following common for both Questionnaires:

- Defining the national key issues,
- Global key issue: environment and sustainable development education,
- Specific objectives of the sustainable development.

Separate topics in the Questionnaire for the government and other state institutions, were:

- Analysis of the functional capacity of the institution,
- Elements of sustainable development in the institutions' practice,
- Starting a process of preparation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development

And in the Questionnaire for the non-governmental sector, separate topics were:

- Assessment of the need for integrated approach and stakeholders, participation in the sustainable development policy creation and decision making,
- Role of NGOs in the creating the policy of the state institutions,
- Assessment of the obstacles for implementation of the recommendations from Agenda 21

During the processing of the Questionnaires, the general and special methods of the social sciences were used, such: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, generalization, dialectical method and statistical method.

Besides the research methods, the methodological instruments were also used: survey, interviews and analysis of the content of the national development documents in certain areas (strategies, programmes, action plans, legal and sub-legal acts etc).

After the processing, the conclusions were formatted in accordance with the directions from the Guidelines for NCSA Rio + 10 Assessment, and experts/consultants were engaged for that purpose.

The prepared Draft National Assessment Report was adopted by the Coordinative Body and by the National Preparatory Committee, approved by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, and adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

The very fact that the National Assessment Report was carried out by representatives of different sectors which were included in the whole process of preparation, indicates that the real institutional state capacity for development, and later for implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development was reflected and presented in the Assessment Report. Although it indicates the negative sides from institutional or organizational aspect as well, the Government has adopted the Assessment with all the information given within, showing in that way readiness and openness to accept the real conditions in the country.

What further?

- Generally, implementation of the Sustainable Development concept in all the segments of social living;
- At the moment, with financial support of UNDP, the project "Methodology for preparation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development" is being developed, which, among the other, shall result in idea sketches for projects, whose realization shall achieve sustainability in several areas simultaneously. By the "Methodology" indicators for measuring and monitoring the sustainability in certain areas shall be also established. Besides the indicators, ponders shall be also identified, i.e. value criteria

- which reflect the conditions in a certain area and its impact on the conditions in other areas. For that purpose, process model has been developed. Thus, one of the activities is finishing this project;
- Also, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has already initiated preparation of a Manual for development of Local Agendas 21, to reach unification in the process of developing Local Action Plans for Sustainable Society;
 - Next step would be defining and adopting sustainable development indicators on a national level, as well as establishing methodology for their expressing and implementing;
 - It is normal that the preparation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development and establishing a National Council for Sustainable Development is something that is understood, without any special emphasizing;
 - After this is finished, what should be done is to develop and implement the Local Action Plans for Sustainable Society, taking into account the Law on Local Self-government, the Law on Local Self-government Units Financing and the Law on Territorial Division of Macedonia, i.e. having in mind the whole decentralization process.

We hope that, with the realization and implementation of these activities, the Republic of Macedonia shall contribute for Sustainable Earth.

Margarita Matlievska
Skopje, 09. 05. 2003

Dear colleges,

It is my pleasure to give an overview on the efforts conducted by the Republic of Macedonia towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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Za celite na ovoj Samit, sekoja zemja ~lenka na Obedinetite nacii, treba{e da izgotvi National Assessment Report on Sustainable Development, odnosno, treba{e da go proceni sopstveniot napredok vo implementacija na preporakite od Agenda 21 i obezbeduvawe odr`livost na razvojt.

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National Assessment Report treba{e da se sprovede согласно Guidelines for NCSD Rio + 10 Assessment (by Earth Council), odnosno treba{e:

6. da se procenat Nacionalnite strategii za odr`liv razvoj, od aspekt na sistem na upravuvawe i organizacija, institucionalen kapacitet, resursi, politi~ka i zakonska poddr{ka;
7. da se proceni stepenot na integriranost i u~estvoto na razli~ni sektori i razli~ni nivoa, mehanizmite za koordinacija i sl, pri kreiraweto i sproveduvaweto na politikite na odr`liv razvoj;
8. da se definiraat 3 nacionalni klu~ni pra{awa i da se proceni vo kolkava mera tie se sofpa|aat so zalo`bite na Samitot od Rio;
9. da se obraboti obrazovaniето, obukata i javnata svest za `ivotnata sredina i odr`liv razvoj i da se proceni na~inot na koj toa e inkorporirano vo zemjata
10. da se integriraat analizite i preporakite od prethodnite to~ki vo vizija za zemjata.

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[to se odnesuva do odr`liviot razvoj, The Institute for Sociological, Juridical and Political Research developed "The Conceptual Approach in the Creation and Implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia", but due to the worsened political situation, The National strategy for Sustainable Development" was not prepared. Also, Republika Makedonija nema formirano Nacionalen sovet za odr`liv razvoj, nema воведено образование за `ivotna sredina i odr`liv razvoj na nacionalno nivo vo formalното образование! Zna~i, **u{te od po~etokot bevme soo~eni so pre~ki, bidej}i bevme vo situacija koga treba teloto (Nacionalniот sovet) koe go nemame formirano, da procenuva ne{to (Nacionalna strategija) {to go nemame izraboteno!!!**

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So cel izработка na Assessment Report, Vladata na Republika Makedonija go naznači i Ministerstvoto za životna sredina i prostorno planiranje (kako nacionalen koordinator za sproveduvawe na celite i preporakite od Agenda 21) da gi koordinira aktivnostite za izработка na Assessment Report.

Za da se izbegne mo`nosta Assessment Report da gi reflektira edinstveno stavovite na vladinite organi na uprava i sakajji da go poituva principot za vkuuvawe na pretstavnici od site stakeholders vo izработkata na Assessment Report, na inicijativa na Ministerstvoto za životna sredina i prostorno planiranje, Vladata formira National Preparatory Committee, vo koj vku-i pretstavnici od: organi na uprava (centralna vlast), lokalna samouprava (lokalna vlast), od sektorite: nauka, obrazovanie, biznis/industrija, meunarodni organizacii, sindikati, nevladini organizacii. Vladata, povtorno na inicijativa na Ministerstvoto za životna sredina i prostorno planiranje, formira i Coordination Body, sostaveno od eksperti koi rabotat na postignuvawe na odr`liv razvoj vo poddelni oblasti, a voedno i pretstavnici na razli`ni stakeholders.

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Coordinative Body odr`a nekolku sostanoci, `ija osnovna cel be{e da se utvrdi metodologija na rabota i da se definiraat izvorite i na`ini za pribirawe na podatoci.

Na sostanocite se utvrdi deka najdobri izvori na podatoci se nacionalnite razvojni strate{ki dokumenti vo poddelni oblasti, kako: National Environment Action Plan, National Health Environment Action Plan, National Strategy for Economic Development of the Republic of Macedonia, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, National Human Report, etc.

Za najsoodveten instrument be{e odlu`eno da se izraboti Pra{alnik, za {to go anga`iravme Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research. Institutot, vo sorabotka so Sektorot za odr`liv razvoj od Ministerstvoto za životna sredina i prostorno planiranje, izraboti dva vida na Pra{alnici: eden za vladinite i drugite dr`avni institucii i eden za nevladiniot sektor. Interesno e da napomenam deka, vo edna prigoda, pri poseta na eden konsultatnt od UNDP, komu mu be{e prezentiran Pra{alnikot, re`e deka treba da go za{titime kako Intellectual Property.

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Pra{alnicite bea podeleni vo nekolku tematski celini, od koi zaedni`ki za obata Pra{alnici bea:

- Definiraweto na nacionalni klu`ni pra{awa
- Globalno klu`no pra{awe: obrazovaniето za životna sredina i odr`liv razvoj,
- Specifi`ni celi na odr`livot razvoj.

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Posebni tematski celini vo Pra{alnikot za vladinite i dr`avnite institucii bea:

- Analizirawe na funkcionalniот kapacitet na institucijata na ispitanikot
- Elementi na odr`livot razvoj vo praktikata na instituciite,
- Zapo`nuvawe na proces za izработка na National Strategy for Sustainable Development

a vo Pra{alnikot za nevladiniот sektor, posebni celini bea:

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- Procenka na potrebita od integriran pristap i u~estvo na stakeholders pri kreiraweto na politikata i donesuvaweto odluki za odr`liv razvoj
- Ulogata na NVO vo kreiraweto na politikata na dr`avnite institucii
- Procenka na pre~kite za sproveduvawe na preporakite od Agenda 21

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Pri obrabotkata na Pra{alnicite bea koristen i op{tite i posebnite metodi na op{testvenite nauki, kako: analiza, sinteza, indukcija, dedukcija, generalizacija, dijalekti~ki metod i statisti~kata metoda.

Pokraj istra`uva~kite metodi, koristen bea i metodolo{kite instrumenti: anketa, intervju i analiza na sodr`inata na nacionalnite razvojni dokumenti po poodelni oblasti (strategii, programi, akcioni planovi, zakonski i podzakonski akti i sl).

Posle obrabotkata, dobienite zaklu~oci se formatiraa soglasno nasokite od Guidelines for NCS + 10 Assessment, za {to bea anga`irani i eksperti/konsultanti.

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Izaboteniot draft National Assessment Report, be{e usvoen i od Koordinativnoto telo i od National Preparatory Committee.

Procenkata ja odobri i ministerot za `ivotna sredina i prostorno planirawe, a be{e usvoena i od strana na Vladata na Republika Makedonija.

Samiot fakt {to National Assessment Report be{e realiziran od strana na pretstavnici na najrazli~ni sektori, koi bea vku~eni vo celiot proces na izrabotkata, govori deka vo Assessment Report najde odraz i be{e pretstaven realniot institucionalniot kapacitet na dr`avata za razvivawe i, pokasno, za implementirawe na Nacionalna strategija za odr`liv razvoj. Iako vo nego se naveduvaat i negativnite strani od institucionalen ili organizaciski aspekt, Vladata sepa ja usvoi Procenkata so se' ona {to vo nea be{e izneseno, i na toj na~in ja poka`a svojata spremnost i otvorenost za prifa}awe na realnite sostojbi vo dr`avata.

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[to ostanuva za ponatamu?

- Generalno, vgraduvawe na konceptot za odr`livost na razvojot vo site segmenti na op{testvenoto `iveewe;
- Vo momentot, so finansiska poddr{ka od UNDP se razviva proektot "Metodologija za izrabotka na Nacionalna strategija za odr`liv razvoj", koj, meju drugoto }e rezultira i so idejni skici na proekti, so ~ie sproveduvawe }e se postigne odr`livost istovremeno i vo nekolku oblasti. So "Metodologijata" }e se utvrdat i indikator i za merewe i sledewe na odr`livosta vo poedine~nite oblasti. Osven indikator i, }e bidat identifikuvani i ponderi, odnosno vrednosni kriteriumi koi go otslikuvaat tekot na sostojbata vo edna oblast i nejinoto vlijanie vrz sostojbite vo ostanati oblasti. Za taa cel, ve}e e razvien procesen model. Zna~i, edna od aktivnostite e zavr{uvawe na ovoj proekt;

- Isto taka, Ministerstvoto za životna sredina i prostorno planiranje veće inicira izradotka na Priručnik za razvijawe na Lokalni Agendi 21, so koj }e se postigne voednaenost vo procesot na razvijawe na Lokalni akcioni planovi za održiva zaednica;
- Bi sledelo definiranje i, na nacionalno nivo, usvojuvawe na indikator i za održiv razvoj, kako i vovanovuvawe metodologija za nivno izrazuvawe i vgraduvawe;
- Normalno deka izradotka na Nacionalna strategija za održiv razvoj i formirawe Nacionalen sovet za održiv razvoj e ne{to {to se podrazbira, bez osobeno da go naglasuvam;
- Otkako ova }e se zavr{i, ostanuva da se razvivaat i sproveduvaat Lokalnite akcioni planovi za održiva zaednica, imaj}i go vo predvid zakonot za lokalna samouprava, zakonot za finansirawe na edinicite na lokalnata samouprava i Zakonot za teritorijalna podelba na Makedonija, odnosno zemaj}i go vo vid sevkupniot proces na decentralizacija.

Se nadevame deka, so realizacija i sproveduvawe na ovie aktivnosti, Republika Makedonija }e pridonese kon Sustainable Earth.

Vi blagodaram za vnimanieto!