

NSSD Project Mission to the Republic of Macedonia successfully accomplished



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The NSSD Project Mission to the Republic of Macedonia is successfully accomplished. During the past 2 years Dr. Manfred W. Buch filled out the position of the Project Team Leader and Sustainable Development Specialist for the preparation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Macedonia.

The NSSD project built on prior experiences and fulfilled obligations made by the Republic of Macedonia internationally – especially with regards to accession to the EU. The aim was to provide an effective framework through the NSSD offering practical guidelines for the public and private sectors in how to plan and implement sustainable development and encourage an increase in domestic and foreign investments.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Macedonia is not just another strategy document for the book shelf. With the financial support of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, facilitated through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and co-ordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) of the Republic of Macedonia it was the **project objective**

To lead a participatory process of developing a National Strategy for Sustainable Development, meeting the requirements of EU-accession for the Republic of Macedonia.

With this approach – which is very much different compared to the preparation of other strategic documents being prepared solely by foreign consultants – the national ownership of the strategy as well as the new way of thinking and working was demonstrated on the spot. The *driving engine* of the NSSD project was the Domestic Specialists with their 7 Sector Working Groups (SWGs) and 4 Cross-cutting Units (CCSUs).

It is the inherent nature of a Strategy for Sustainable Development to provide an integrative approach of planning, which offers the overall umbrella for all other strategies and policies in various fields, and in fact all walks of life. Etosha Consult International will follow the activities for implementation of the NSSD, which now lies in the hands of national authorities.

Dr. Manfred W. Buch