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DEVELOPMENT STORIES

UNDP's activities in the country are within the framework of the UN Development Assistance Framework 2010-2015, agreed between the Government and the UN Agencies in 2009.

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Dear Readers,



In this issue of Development Stories we are pleased to offer articles and features on a range of topics from anti-corruption measures to the role of the media in countering domestic violence – a range I feel reflects the scope and diversity of UNDP's work.

And as always in Development Stories we aim to offer our readers both the big picture of our extensive operations as well as specific insights and findings from projects on the ground. For example, this issue offers a photo-story overview of our efforts in this country to help reduce the risks and negative effects of disasters, a report on how inter-municipal cooperation has helped local government meet the challenges of implementing measures to improve energy efficiency, as well as key findings from the new national inventory of greenhouse gases developed with technical assistance from UNDP.

Our commitment to helping improve the lives of the most vulnerable groups in society is represented in this issue, too, with news of a regional project to tackle the social exclusion of Roma throughout the Western Balkans, together with statistics from the latest survey of the socio-economic conditions experienced by the Roma community in this country. And our continued efforts to help the country overcome its single greatest socio-economic challenge – the problem of widespread and long-term unemployment – is showcased here with one of many individual stories of success resulting from the UNDP-backed self-employment programme.

Lastly, I am pleased we can feature here an interview with the Dean of the faculty of Engineering and Computer Science with whom we have recently signed an agreement to establish a Regional Innovation Hub in Skopje. Innovation is a driving force in our activities and our story featured in this issue on using mobile technology to help reduce the use of pesticide in the Prespa region made the front page of none less than the National Geographic global website.

It is my pleasure then, to wish all our readers a joyful summer and to present you with an issue of Development Stories that offers us the chance to reflect on past achievements and the challenges ahead.

Alessandro Fracassetti

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Fracassetti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

UNDP Resident Representative a.i.



© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

Job prospects helping to keep families together

“It’s not right to say there’s no work in this country when people have so much potential they don’t realize,” says Qerim Dauti, “We should be trying to create jobs here—finding ways to use the skills we already have, not leaving our homes to find work abroad.”

Qerim can speak from personal experience—like so many of the country’s citizens he once left his life here behind to find work a long way from home. For twelve years he lived in Australia working in the construction industry.

But despite successfully applying for Australian citizenship, Qerim eventually returned to his roots.

“Starting over again isn’t easy,” he admits, “When I first came back I had to make a living as a taxi driver. I’d gained a lot of skills in carpentry in Australia but I didn’t have the confidence and knowledge to make the most of them so I just worked on the side doing jobs for people informally—but that was no kind of stability.”

“It’s not right to say there’s no work in this country when people have so much potential they don’t realize,” says Qerim Dauti, “We should be trying to create jobs here—finding ways to use the skills we already have, not leaving our homes to find work abroad.”



"Helping people make the most of their skills is what the Self-Employment Programme is all about," says Goran Jovanovski, Head of Sector for Active Labor Market Measures in the National Agency for Employment, "If we can achieve that aim we'll not only reduce unemployment but also help stem the flow of human resources out of the country."

"Helping people make the most of their skills is what the Self-Employment Programme is all about," says Goran Jovanovski, Head of Sector for Active Labor Market Measures in the National Agency for Employment, "If we can achieve that aim we'll not only reduce unemployment but also help stem the flow of human resources out of the country."

A recent survey found that approximately 42% of young people aged between 19 and 27 say they would probably leave the country to seek employment abroad, while no less than 30% say they would probably leave the country for good.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

At sixty years old with four children, there is nothing Qerim wants more than to keep his family together. “I don’t want my grandchildren emigrating for work like me”, he says, “And I’m going to do all I can to make sure they have opportunities here. That’s why I applied. A friend of mine happened to mention the self-employment programme and it sounded like a way to make my carpentry work more regular, more stable. What I was looking for especially was help with planning. But the workshop gave me something even more important as well—it built up my belief in what I can achieve.”

At the workshop the trainees are guided by a team of expert trainers through the process of developing their ideas into business plans.

Risto Ivanov, a trainee team leader, explains: “Our goal at the workshop is to advise each trainee on how to present their business idea and to submit it in writing for assessment. We try to transfer our experience and know-how by taking the participants step by step through the process of developing and upgrading their selected business ideas. And we give them specific exercises to help them define the key issues associated with doing business. These are methods we’ve tailored specifically to the needs of the unemployed.”

Thanks to Qerim’s hard work and determination, together with the business training he received through the Self-Employment Programme, the prospects for himself and his family are getting better and better: since finishing the course, Qerim has formalised his carpentry work into a family business. Both his son and his daughter-inlaw are now working with him and they expect to recruit another two employees very soon.

In his newly refurbished office, equipped with help from the self-employment grant, Qerim works on the design of new products with his son who is also a professional carpenter.

“I used to sell my products only locally,” he explains, “But through the workshop I learnt how to plan sales and extend into new markets. Now we’re selling in Ohrid and Bitola and even exporting to Tirana and Switzerland. What we need to do now is to increase sales by exporting to the EU. And if everything goes to plan it won’t be long before I can employ my own grandchildren in the business.”

The Self-Employment Programme is developed and implemented by the Government and UNDP.

“I used to sell my products only locally,” he explains, “But through the workshop I learnt how to plan sales and extend into new markets. Now we’re selling in Ohrid and Bitola and even exporting to Tirana and Switzerland. What we need to do now is to increase sales by exporting to the EU. And if everything goes to plan it won’t be long before I can employ my own grandchildren in the business.”



A new web portal

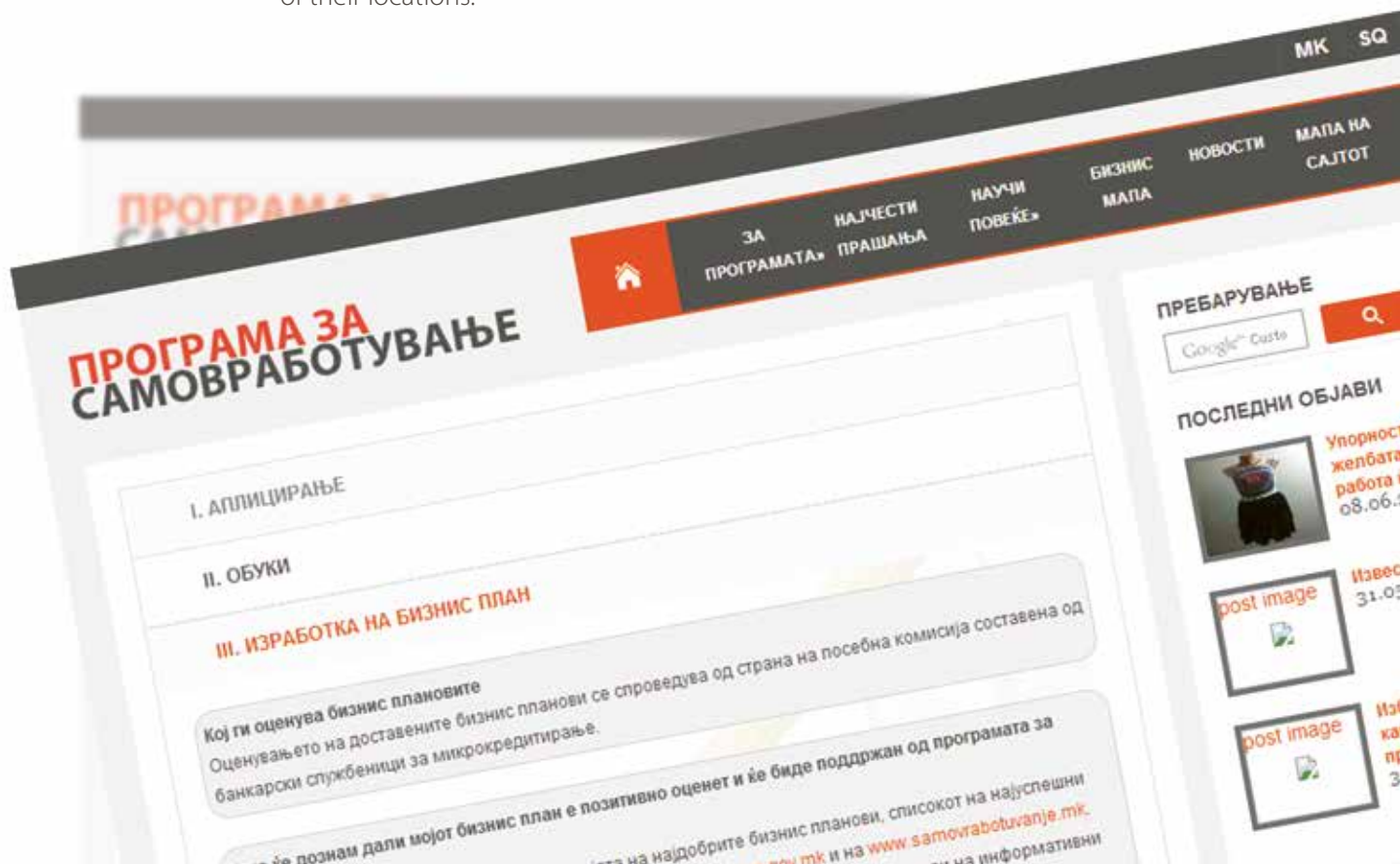
FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

Taking the leap of starting your own business has just been made a whole lot easier with the launch of a new web portal dedicated to the successful national self-employment programme supported by the Government and UNDP: www.samovrabotuvanje.mk

For the first time, candidates wishing to apply for the self-employment programme can find all the information and help they need in one place.

The slickly designed portal not only contains comprehensive information about the programme and the experiences of previous participants, it also offers helpful short video tutorials on the various modules of the course.

The portal will further act as a business-to-business platform, providing up-to-date information on all 4,905 businesses established through this programme and a map of their locations.





A SMART SOLUTION

REAPING THE FRUITS OF TECHNOLOGY

SMS and Facebook Help Farmers Reduce Pollution in Resen

“This is the one everyone knows from cartoons - the little worm in the apple” explains Eftim Petkovski, scooping the larva of a codling moth from an apple in his orchard in Resen. “But it’s no joke, I can tell you – if we farmers don’t spray for them early on, all our livelihoods are at risk. Timing is everything with these pests. You’ve got to predict their migrations – and that can be a matter of hours. Spraying too early or too late is much less effective and a lot more expensive because you need bigger amounts – often as much as three times the quantity. And you can guess what that does to the environment.”

Overuse of pesticides amongst orchard farmers in Resen has been proven to be a major cause of pollution in the beautiful but environmentally vulnerable region of the Prespa Lake Basin, threatening the habitat of over 2,000 species of birds, fish and mammals, including many endangered animals unique to Prespa and the ancient freshwater lake.

As part of its long-term commitment to restoring the health of this valuable ecosystem, UNDP has been working in close cooperation with the Municipality of Resen in recent years with funding from the Global Environment Facility and the Swiss Development Cooperation on projects to raise awareness of the dangers of pesticides and to help local farmers adopt more environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

These efforts have already led to a remarkable 30% reduction in the amount of pesticides used by local farmers each season, which is good news for the environment and good news for farmers who have made substantial savings as a result.

“The way we dealt with pests before was wasteful,” says Petkovski, “And a lot of that could be put down to farmers’ lack of awareness. But that’s not the whole story – the problem of knowing the best time to spray is a problem faced by all farmers. It’s about the speed of notification and that’s in many ways a technical problem needing a technical solution.”

The first major step towards a technical solution to the over-use of pesticides was taken in 2005 with the establishment of a system for monitoring pests and diseases. This system, developed by UNDP in cooperation with the Municipality of Resen, involved the installation of 6 solar-powered agro-meteorological monitoring stations and a number of insect pheromone traps.

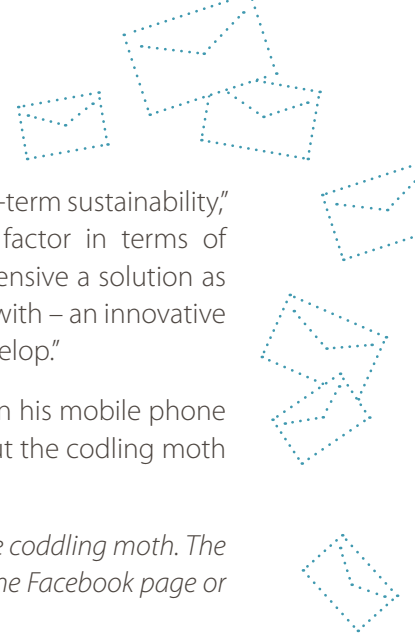
The monitoring stations gathered all the necessary data, but the problem remained of how to get that data directly to farmers as quickly as possible. There’s no local media in Resen, so for the past seven years they’ve had to rely on notifications in the square – and that has been far from adequate to ensure all farmers are adequately and promptly informed.

“The problem of knowing the best time to spray is a problem faced by all farmers. It’s about the speed of notification and that’s in many ways a technical problem needing a technical solution.” - says Eftim Petkovski



“This shows just how effectively modern technology can be used to overcome problems of access to information. This specific solution is excellent, but the innovative approach taken to the problem – the willingness to tackle old problems with new media – is also highly encouraging.”

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov



"The challenge – as always with development – was to ensure long-term sustainability," explains UNDP's Dimitrija Sekovski, "And in this case a major factor in terms of sustainability was expense. We knew we needed to find as inexpensive a solution as possible to the notification problem. And that's what we came up with – an innovative way of notifying farmers that cost less than 1,000 US dollars to develop."

Walking between the apple-trees in his orchard, Petkovski clicks on his mobile phone and pulls up his message menu. "Here's the SMS we received about the codling moth on Friday," he says, and displays the following message:

Apple trees in the area of the village of Rajca have been infected by the codling moth. The apple trees should be treated in the next 10 days. For more info, visit the Facebook page or call the Association of Farmers.

"That message went out to every farmer in the village of Rajca whose name is registered with the local Association of Farmers," says Petkovski, "And that's how we were able to spray before the moths had a chance to spread. Just knowing that in time has saved a lot of our fruit."

The innovative system of SMS notification was developed with UNDP support by the Faculty of Computer Science of the University of Cyril & Methodius in Skopje.

As well as SMS notifications, the solution also makes use of Facebook. The same administrator (a pest control expert) responsible for informing farmers by SMS is also responsible for updating a dedicated Farmers' Association page on Facebook, further expanding the amount and accessibility of timely information.

"The only real challenge now," says Sekovski, "is to ensure that the post of this administrator– whose salary is currently supported with UNDP funding - becomes a permanent position within the Farmers' Association."

Low costs and simplicity of implementation make this system highly suitable for replication in other municipalities across the country. "This shows just how effectively modern technology can be used to overcome problems of access to information. This specific solution is excellent, but the innovative approach taken to the problem – the willingness to tackle old problems with new media – is also highly encouraging."

Together with the ongoing 6-year project for the Restoration of Lake Prespa Basin, supported by UNDP with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the new notification system is set to further transform farming practices in the region, securing a sustainable future for the unique ecosystem of Lake Prespa.

This story was published on the National Geographic global website.

Seeking out new solutions for greater Roma inclusion

© UNDP/Maja Zlatevska

UNDP just launched a major new two-year project to empower people from Roma communities throughout the region to gain better access to effective social services and business development opportunities. The project is called 'Regional Support Facility for Roma Inclusion' and is being funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in the amount of two million US dollars. This project will be implemented also in Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro.

WORRYING STATISTICS:

The latest surveys on Roma in this country show that this community remains a highly vulnerable group in society. For example:

- Roma—and especially Roma women—are employed less, paid less for similar jobs, and are more likely to be working in low-skilled and informal employment than non-Roma women.
- Rates of unemployment and joblessness are at least twice as high amongst the Roma population as among the non-Roma population.
- Young non-Roma adults aged 20–24 are more than ten times as likely to be in education as their Roma counterparts.
- Almost 20% of all Roma households cannot afford essential medical services.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

Over the next two years, 370,000 US dollars will be invested in the country to address some of the key causes of Roma social exclusion, including unemployment and financial insecurity, while building up the capacities of all stakeholders involved in promoting the greater inclusion of Roma.

The indicators of the Action Plan for the National Roma Strategy will be redefined to ensure they are achievable. This will enable more effective monitoring of all measures and actions undertaken throughout the region to improve Roma wellbeing and raise their socio-economic conditions. And all stakeholders involved in Roma inclusion—including local Roma NGOs, local activists and volunteers, as well as the Roma Information Centres—will be trained in technical skills such as monitoring and evaluation, data interpretation and the use of statistics, and community mobilization and advocacy.

The project will test new ways of increasing opportunities for Roma at local level to become active on the labour market and achieve economic independence, by helping unemployed Roma men and women to improve their educational achievements, vocational or entrepreneurial skills, and by creating opportunities for business start-up, subsidized employment and community service.

“This new project will help develop new and effective solutions and models to improve the quality of life of those on the margins of society,” says UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, Vesna Dzuteska-Bisheva.



© UNDP/Andrej Ginovski



PHOTO STORY:

Investing today for a safer tomorrow

Torrential rains, stormwaters and snowmelt can cause great damage to people and property if they are not effectively controlled. Nadezda Trendafilova is one of the hundreds of residents of Mokrievo that has long been living under the threat of natural disaster from uncontrolled water. To help reduce the risk of such disasters, UNDP has teamed up with the municipal authorities responsible for these settlements to restore and install new stormwater channels.

"Our house was built in 1964. Since then, it has been constantly exposed to the potentially fatal consequences of torrential rain and stormwaters. Now, that the storm water channel is in place, we finally feel safe" says Nadezda.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

In Mokrievo, a 200-meter stormwater channel was constructed.

In Kicevo, UNDP supported the municipality's investment in the restoration of the Ivani Dol stormwater channel, together with a general upgrading of the streets and communal infrastructure, including the water and waste water channels.

Each of these projects will bring substantial benefits to the local communities — providing them with greater security to invest in a sustainable future for themselves and their environment.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov





When an enormous boulder tumbled down from one of the hills around the city of Veles and caused significant damage to a historic church, the local authorities knew they had to take urgent measures to prevent such a disaster from happening again.

The municipality of Veles resolved to join forces with UNDP to tackle the problem. Four dangerous boulders that were posing an immediate threat to the local population were successfully stabilized.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

The project has not only helped provide greater security for residents living near the boulders – it has also helped protect the historic 19th century Church of St. Panteleimon.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov





UNDP supported the municipality of Makedonska Kamenica to build its first-ever modern fire fighting station. This station, along with training and education, is now helping the community to successfully combat fires - a potentially serious problem given the high density of forests in the municipality's territory.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

"By co-financing disaster risk reduction activities, the municipality is helping to ensure a safer future for all its citizens. It is investing today for a safer tomorrow", UNDP Project Manager Vasko Popovski said.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov



Vulnerability assessments and hazard mapping, as well as evacuation-planning and training drills for schools and kindergartens and other high-risk communities have been carried out in ten municipalities.

These activities have greatly increased the resilience to natural disasters of the municipalities of Kicevo, Veles, Caska, Gradsko, Strumica, Vasilevo, Novo Selo, Bosilovo, Makedonska Kamenica and Aerodrom.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov





To help schools be better prepared in response to natural disasters, more than 17,900 students and 1,640 teachers have taken part in training-drills for evacuation and rescue in case of earthquakes and fires in Kicevo, Zajas, Veles, Graqdsko, Caska, Strumica, Vasilevo, Bosilovo, Novo Selo, Aerodrom, Makedonska Kamenica and Centar.

A total of 380 elementary schools country-wide are already benefitting from the country's first educational computer game on crisis management— a game which has become part of their school curricula.

© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov



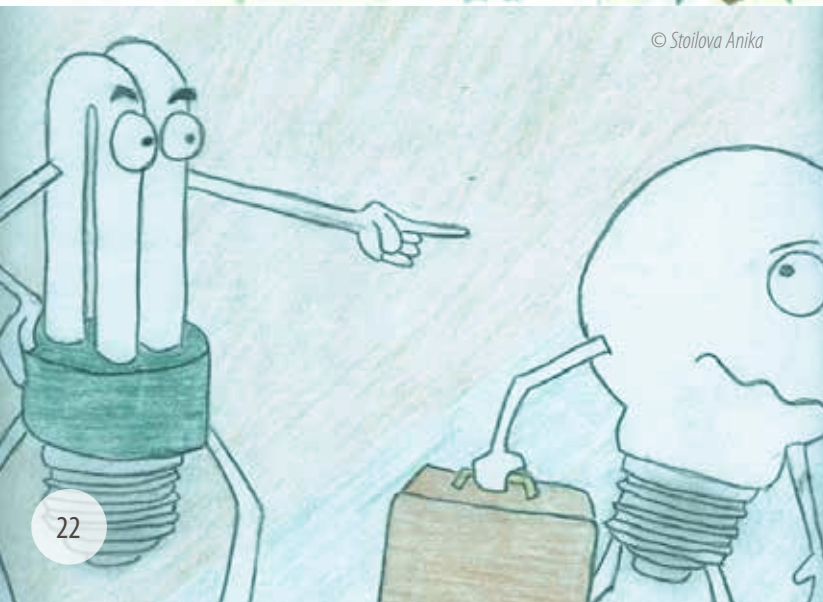
© Marina Danev

MAKING IT HAPPEN:

Cooperating to succeed in energy efficiency



© Dragan Pesov



© Stoilova Anika

"It's not that municipalities don't have the will to implement the new measures to improve energy efficiency," says Mitko Vlahov, a civil servant with the municipality of Bogdanci, "Of course we do. We know these changes bring long-term savings and we know they'll be better for the environment. But like with any difficult task, you need to have the know-how and the right equipment to do it yourself."

Many municipalities have struggled in recent years to fulfil the additional obligations devolved to them with the process of decentralization. Both in terms of finance and expertise, existing municipal capacities are not yet adequate to deliver some of the more complex new services required – including essential measures to improve energy-efficiency stipulated with the Law on Energy.

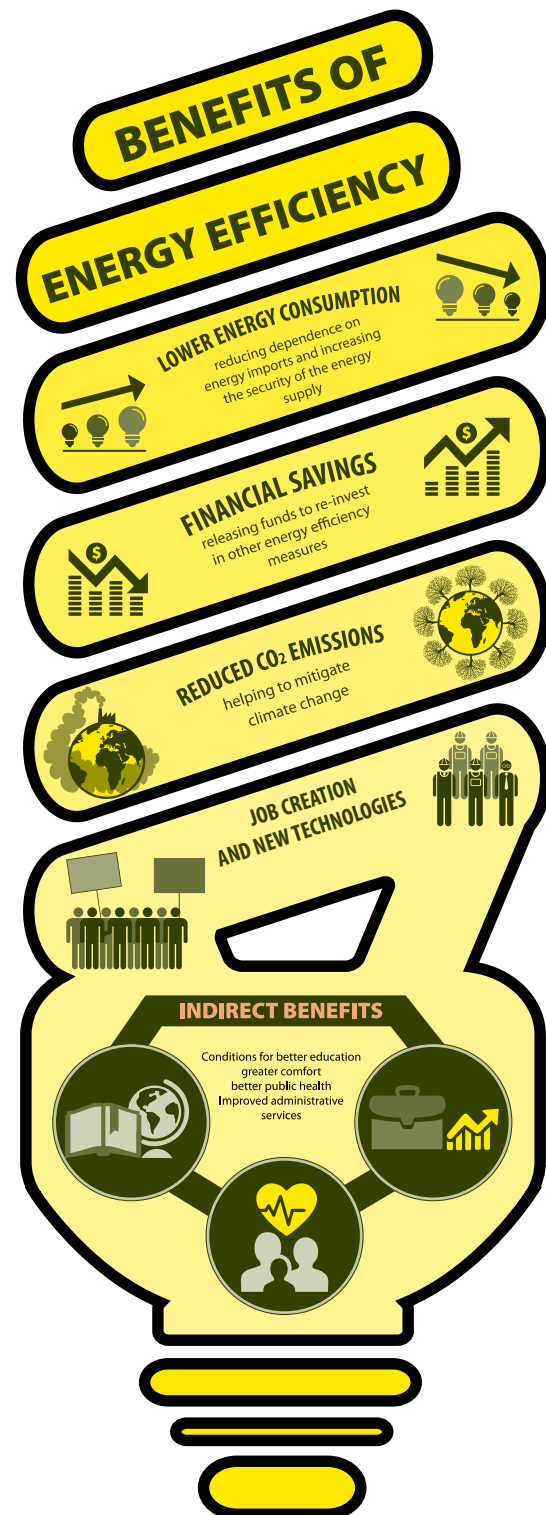
"Energy efficiency is one of those areas where investment is needed today to make savings in the future and this presents a big challenge for cash-strapped municipalities, especially for smaller urban and rural municipalities," says UNDP's Boran Ivanoski. "To meet this challenge they need to find alternative ways to raise resources and build up their capacities. This is where inter-municipal cooperation comes in. And that's an area where UNDP has a lot of experience to offer."

Inter-municipal cooperation can serve to optimize limited resources by achieving economies of scale and has already helped many municipalities fulfil some of their extended obligations since decentralization. UNDP has been actively promoting and assisting such cooperation from the beginning, so when it became clear that capacities were lacking for the implementation of much-needed measures to increase energy efficiency, UNDP was keen to explore a solution through the adoption of a cooperative approach.

In December 2011, therefore, UNDP launched a 12-month pilot project called Energy Efficiency through Inter-Municipal Cooperation as part of the regional programme Think Globally – Develop Locally in the three municipalities of Gevgelija, Valandovo and Bogdanci. The total budget for the project was 31,200 USD.

“We selected these municipalities for the pilot project to show how the resources of a larger municipality - Gevgelija, in this case – can help smaller neighbouring municipalities – here the municipalities of Bogdanci and Valandovo – to overcome shortfalls in financial and human capacities,” says UNDP’s Ilmiasan Dauti, “The main aim, of course, was to help the partner municipalities meet their legal obligations in the area

“We should all worry about saving energy. This will reduce the need for importing expensive energy into the country. Therefore, savings from the municipal and national budget will be used to meet the needs of citizens in health, education and culture.”



**Save energy for more money,
greener environment and more jobs !**

of energy efficiency. These obligations include not just auditing but the development of three-year Energy Efficiency Programmes and Annual Plans for Energy Efficiency whose implementation will improve the interior conditions in the public buildings.”

“This project has made a huge difference,” says Risto Atanasovski – the executive director of a local foundation for local development. “With a bit of effort and good will on all sides, we anticipate within the municipal Programme on EE that CO2 emissions will be reduced by over 1,200 tons in the municipality of Gevgelija and over 15 tons in the municipality of Bogdanci, in the period of three years”

Due to the optimization of human resources in Gevgelija as a result of cooperation, for example, some 16,000 USD will be saved per year on salaries alone. And based on the three-year energy-efficiency programmes developed by the project, the municipalities of Gevgelija and Bogdanci will achieve budget savings of approximately 127,000 USD through the implementation of energy-efficiency measures.

The project has succeeded in showing that inter-municipal cooperation is an effective alternative way of delivering services in the area of energy efficiency at local level.

As an additional part of the project, a Social Marketing Campaign was designed and carried out with the aim of raising awareness among young people of

the importance and benefits of measures to increase energy efficiency, involving over 1000 young people.

Speaking to students of the secondary school in Bogdanci as part of an awareness-raising Energy Efficiency Day, the mayor of the municipality Mr. Risto Ichkov reinforced the message that the savings to be gained from energy efficiency can result in better services for all: “Regardless of our social status,” he told the students, “we should all worry about saving energy. This will reduce the need for importing expensive energy into the country. Therefore, savings from the municipal and national budget will be used to meet the needs of citizens in health, education and culture.”

The national Network of Practitioners for Energy and Energy Efficiency of the Association of Local Self-Governments (ZELS), resolved to recommended inter-municipal cooperation and to adopt the best practices created through the project as a model for overcoming the challenges faced by municipalities in terms of insufficient funds and lack of competent human resources for implementing energy efficiency at local level.

The project approach and achievements are being already replicated within the Vardar Planning Region where eight municipalities have established a Joint Unit for energy efficiency with two civil servants who will provide services for all the partner municipalities involved.

“This project has made a huge difference,” says Risto Atanasovski – the executive director of a local foundation for local development, “With a bit of effort and good will on all sides, we anticipate within the municipal Programme on EE that CO2 emissions will be reduced by over 1,200 tons in the municipality of Gevgelija and over 15 tons in the municipality of Bogdanci, in the period of three years.”



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SOCIAL INNOVATION CREATES PROSPEROUS SOCIETIES

*An Interview with Prof. Dimitar Trajanov, PhD, Dean
of the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering
at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius*

Last month saw UNDP and the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering launch the first Regional Hub for Social Innovation. The main aim of the Hub will be to make the most of technology to tackle social challenges and advance human development. To learn more about the scope of the project, we spoke with Mr. Dimitar Trajanov, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

Q: Can you tell us a bit more about the idea behind the Regional Hub for Social Innovation that has just been launched by the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering and UNDP?

Well, the main idea behind the whole project is to encourage the development of innovative IT solutions to social and economic problems. The basic support of this concept is the remarkable strength of country's IT industry, which has been outrunning the pace of development of the overall economy and has become an engine for growth, innovation and competitiveness. Given this burgeoning private IT sector, as well as a strong set of available skills and a favourable policy environment, there is a clear opportunity to create new Interfaces that will overcome obstacles and stimulate innovation to tackle societal issues.

Q: So the idea is to provide a kind of center that brings together expertise to accelerate the development?

That's right, though it should be stressed that the Hub will seek to draw skills from a diverse range of sectors – from undergraduates, from the private and the public sector, from civil society – and not just people already involved in IT but also from people with know-how in other relevant fields such as human development. One of the main aims of the Hub is to facilitate and foster new partnerships between the private sector, policy-makers, academics and other players interested in promoting social innovation. The combination of skills and expertise in development and IT and other areas will help take solutions through every stage from ideation to prototyping and all the way to scaling up. The Hub will act as a kind of catalyst for the incubation of innovative IT solutions to address the most pressing needs of the populations throughout the region. The products we develop will be aimed at local, national and regional level. Some solutions may even be applicable on a global scale.

Q: How will the Social Innovation Hub help tackle unemployment?

One of the key aims of the project is actually to develop new innovative businesses that generate employment. And the Hub itself will provide a number of young people with the opportunity to gain basic entrepreneurship experience and upgrade their skills so they have a better chance to create new startup businesses. The Hub will also offer internship for students. In cooperation with the private sector, we will organize a number of trainings in the areas where there is a lack of highly qualified workforce.

Q: The Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering will be UNDP's main partner in this project. Is this the first collaboration you have had with UNDP?

The Hub project is certainly the biggest project we've worked on with UNDP. The Faculty has had excellent cooperation with UNDP before – for example on the development of the Disaster App and of an SMS notification system for farmers in the Prespa Lake region. Given the success of these small projects, we decided to join forces and we are now seeking for new partnerships with the private sector, national and local government, civil society and with citizens – especially with young people. We hope that this project will lead to the Hub becoming a major innovation hub in the country and a catalyst for all citizens interested in contributing their skills and time to solve social challenges.

Q: Can you tell us a bit more about the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering?

The Faculty is the largest and most prestigious faculty in the field of computer science and technologies in the country and one of the leading faculties of its kind in the region. Our policy of encouraging open collaboration between academia and industry has made us highly adept at implementing different project ideas. We have a rich resource of skills to draw on and that has been reflected in the many awards we have gained. Last year, for example, our students won first place in Europe and fourth place in the world in the IEEEExtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition. And our students also won first place worldwide in the non-game category in the Samsung Smart App Challenge 2012 competition for the development of mobile applications.

Q: That's very impressive. Do you think that current conditions in the region are conducive, though, to the idea of a Regional Hub for Social Innovation?


Absolutely, yes. The launching of this initiative could not have come at a more appropriate time. It follows the recent passing by the Government of a national Law on Innovation, and it is clearly in line with global trends. There has been a great surge of interest in social innovation as a way of fostering sustainable growth, creating jobs and increasing competitive abilities. Social innovation is having a global impact and helping to build prosperous societies. I am glad to see that interest in social innovation exists in the country as well. And I hope that soon, with the creation of the Hub, we will be able to make the most of technology to tackle social challenges and advance human development.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 90% of IT products and services are exported throughout the world, and the ICT industry now makes up **4%** of the country's GDP. The IT sector has also achieved significant growth amongst domestic consumers. **Almost 60%** of households in the country have broadband internet access, for example, **with 96%** of these households including young people.



© UNDP/Ljubomir Stefanov

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page features several stylized hands in various shades of brown and orange. Some hands are solid, while others are dashed outlines, creating a layered, overlapping effect. The background is a solid orange color.

What are INTEGRITY SYSTEMS all about?

WHAT IS AN 'INTEGRITY SYSTEM'?

An integrity system is a comprehensive set of policies, measures and procedures established within an organization in order to strengthen the resistance of that organization to corruption. Integrity systems include structured guidelines detailing the processes for ensuring internal compliance with established regulations.

The need for integrity systems to combat institutional corruption has become ever more widely recognized in recent years with the growing understanding that corruption is a problem with its roots in the ineffectiveness of institutions. Accordingly, the focus of anti-corruption efforts has shifted towards the development of internal 'integrity infrastructures' within organizations aimed at increasing their resistance to corruption.

The concept of integrity systems reflects the importance of what happens within individual organizations. Developing an effective, corruption-resistant and sufficiently regulated structure is vital if the adoption of anti-corruption laws is to have any more than a negligible impact.

THE BENEFITS OF INTEGRITY SYSTEMS

Why introduce integrity systems?

Introducing integrity systems will reap multiple benefits for the country, including increased greater institutional effectiveness. Financial savings and improved institutional reputation.

Benefits to the integrity of the public sector

Introducing measures aimed at strengthening integrity in the conduct of business will contribute to overall integrity in the country and ensure the sustainability of the Government's anti-corruption efforts. Such measures recognize the fact that corruption invariably involves two parties and address the need for responsibility and accountability in the private sector.

Corruption undermines the effectiveness of institutions. Reducing pressure from corruption in administration will thus result in a strengthening of organizational effectiveness.

Benefits for the integrity of the private sector

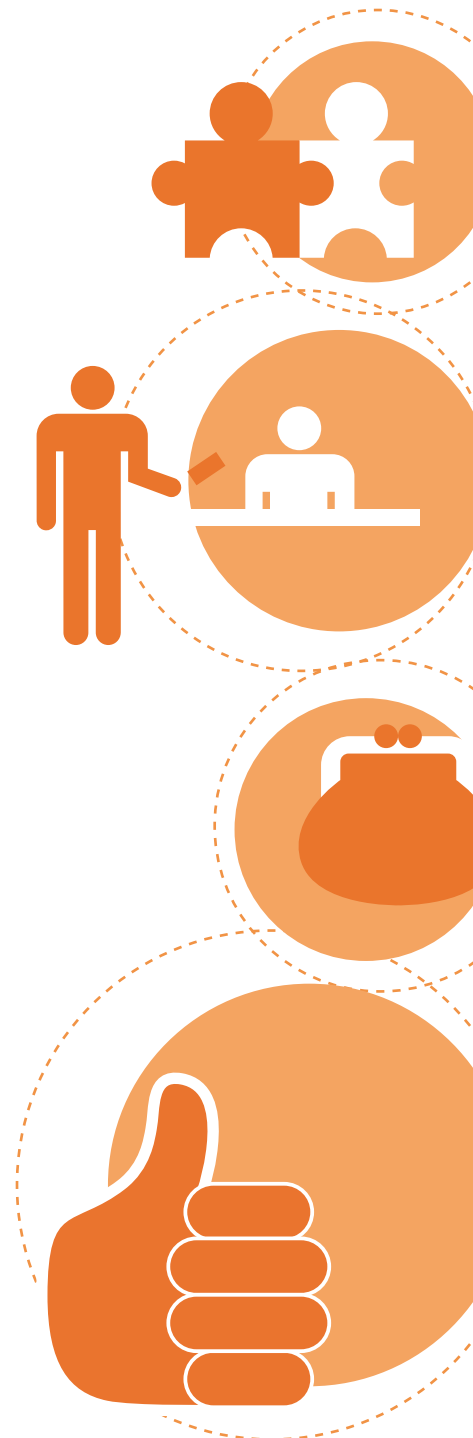
Introducing integrity systems inevitably entails certain costs. However, these costs will eventually be more than recuperated as a result of two important factors:

- Less losses due to internal fraud and private-to-private corruption
- Greater access to foreign partners who would otherwise be hesitant to invest or partner with companies that present an internal regulatory risk

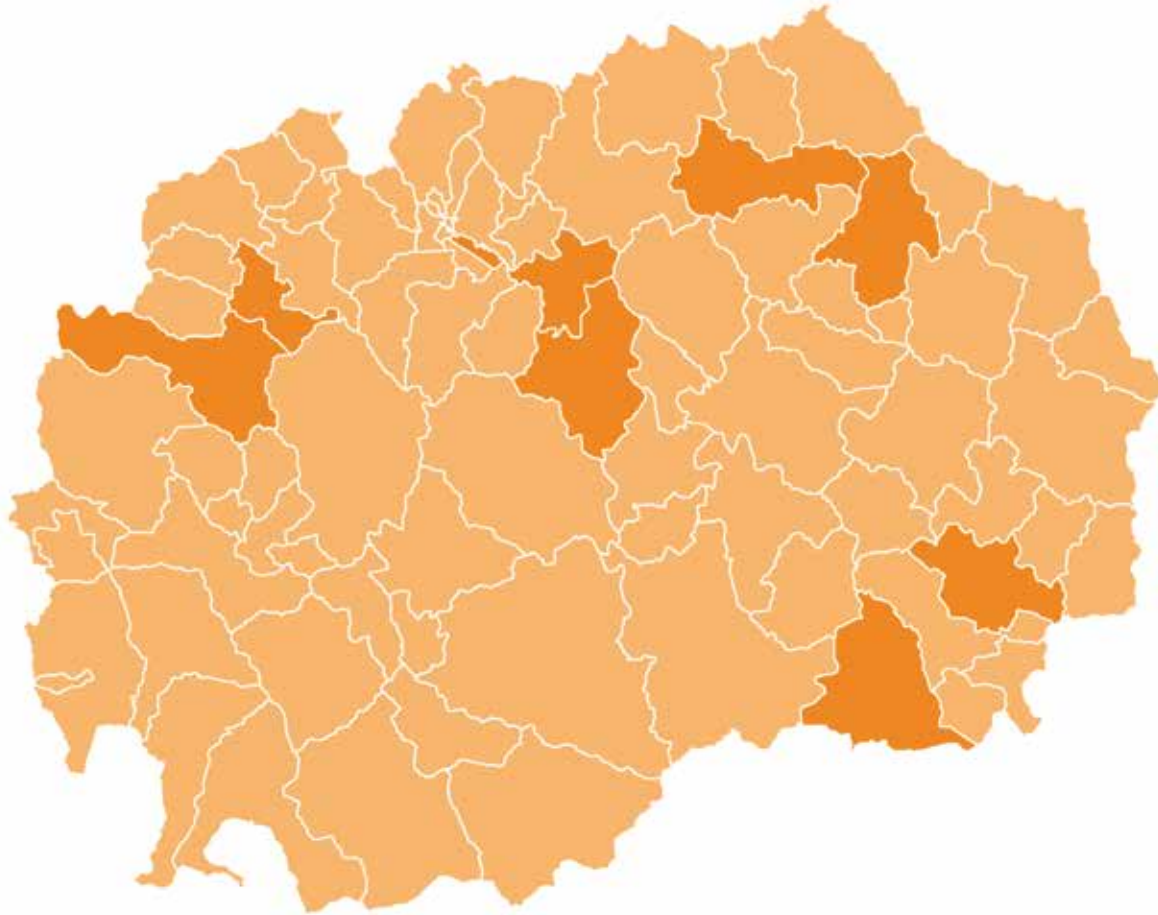
Benefits for the economy at macroeconomic level

By reducing regulatory risks for foreign investors interested in doing business in the country, the introduction of integrity systems (or 'compliance regimes') will be particularly encouraging to investors since none of the South-Eastern European countries or neighboring new European Union member states have yet installed such a regime. In this sense, integrity systems constitute an important competitive advantage.

Given the current state of the world economy, lower costs for compliance, due diligence and lower regulatory risk will indeed make the country more attractive for foreign investments.



NINE MUNICIPALITIES FULLY COMMITTED TO INTRODUCING INTEGRITY SYSTEMS!



The comprehensive anti-corruption policies signed by the mayors of Petrovec, Veles, Aerodrom, Gostivar, Strumica, Gevgelija, Kocani, Kratovo and Brvenica have been developed as part of UNDP's project Strengthening National and Local Integrity Systems—funded by the Government of Norway and implemented in partnership with the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, and the Association of Units of Local Self-Government.

"This is an innovative initiative with the potential to inspire and embrace many more leaders", says Ljubinka Koraboska, the President of the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, "We hope and believe that it will become standard policy and practice throughout the country at all institutional levels".



Taking on domestic violence – A MEDIA APPROACH

“Eradicating domestic violence is only possible with the help of the media,” declared Her Excellency Marriët Schuurman, Ambassador of the Netherlands, “because the words of journalists have the power to reach everybody’s homes.”

Speaking at a recent high-level awareness-raising event organized by UNDP and UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Dutch Ambassador went on to emphasize the need for the media to adopt a more informed and informative approach to domestic violence.

“This is a universal problem,” the Ambassador stated, “And when it comes to tackling domestic violence in the media, it is essential that individual cases are not considered merely a personal matter but a societal issue that affects us all. Violence in the family and the way it is treated has an especially strong influence on children, setting patterns of behaviour that reappear in the next generations.”

Organized as part of the project Preventing Domestic Violence through Competent National Institutions and an Accountable and Transparent Judicial System,

the event attracted over 30 journalists and editors, a number of MPs and Government ministers, as well as NGO representatives and experts on the issue of domestic violence. The clear message that emerged from the discussion was that only an integrated and joint approach involving all key stakeholders will be effective in changing attitudes to domestic violence.

“We share a common objective to build a society with zero tolerance for domestic violence,” stated UNDP Resident Representative a.i. Alessandro Fracassetti, “This objective necessarily involves a fundamental change in public attitudes—a task in which the media has a key role to play. The media should be encouraged to approach the problem of domestic violence in its entirety as opposed to focusing solely on separate incidents.”

Participants agreed that the media has a crucial role in the prevention of domestic violence by raising awareness and educating the public, breaking down prevailing stereotypes and negative patterns of behavior that can lead to domestic violence. Moreover, the media can help victims of domestic violence by publicizing information about support services available.

“When reporting on domestic violence, it is vital that the institutional response be portrayed,” said journalist Snezana Lupevska, “though we should remember that the human touch in the story is also very important for the audience. That’s why we should portray and intertwine the two together.”

“The media need to go deeper in investigating domestic violence,” stated the Minister of Interior, Ms. Gordana Jankulovska, “monitoring and calling to account the principal actors and agencies involved with this issue. The media needs to practice and demand a coherent, proactive, transparent and professional approach to domestic violence.”

Over the past 4 years, with funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations, the joint efforts of the national institutions, civil society organizations and UN agencies have achieved the following key results:

NEARLY

600 VICTIMS

of domestic violence have benefited from free legal aid services.

MORE THAN

3,000 PROFESSIONALS

including judges, public prosecutors, health and social workers - have been trained to tackle cases of domestic violence more efficiently.

A NATIONAL

COORDINATIVE BODY

has been established to help prevent domestic violence..

MORE THAN

60 VICTIMS

of domestic violence have been helped to set up their own businesses and to acquire additional education.

**AWARENESS-RISING ACTIVITIES HAVE
RESULTED IN OVER**

70% OF THE POPULATION

being aware of the problem of domestic violence.

The discussion was informed by the findings of a recent study of on the coverage of domestic violence by the country's media. The study, carried out between January and April 2013, analysed over 200 media reports of domestic violence and reached the following conclusions:

- ◇ Media coverage and analysis of domestic violence has been inadequate in terms of social analysis and there is an urgent need for serious journalistic research of the phenomenon. In general, a more critical and considered approach is necessary on the part of the media.
- ◇ There is an urgent need for more complete coverage of the institutional responses to cases of domestic violence, including the roles and responsibilities of the police and the judiciary.
- ◇ Greater cooperation is essential between the media and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Centres for Social Work, and judicial institutions. This is necessary to enable a more informed and effective approach to the prevention of domestic violence.
- ◇ There needs to be more transparency on the part of key institutions involved in tackling domestic violence, especially in their relations with the media. Institutions need to improve the timeliness and comprehensiveness of the information they release to the media.

Within the framework of the project, financed by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, three more events will take place before November 2013, including at local level. These events will further raise awareness of domestic violence, provoking discussion and helping to interconnect the wide range of stakeholders involved in preventing this crime.

*0 tolerance
for domestic
violence*

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

Data that makes a difference!

A new inventory of national greenhouse gas emissions has just been launched by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, developed to help the country meet the requirements of the International Convention on Climate Change.

The information in this database will be invaluable for policy-makers in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The level of data accuracy has significantly improved and for the first time many new sectors have been included.

Aviation is one of the new sectors included, with data on emissions at a level of detail and accuracy only achieved by a few developed countries in the world.

Some of the most interesting findings about greenhouse gas emissions from other sectors:

- Approximately 74 percent of greenhouse gases are emitted by the energy sector. Most of these emissions come from the use of lignite to produce electricity.
- Most emissions from industry originate from the processing of mineral and metal products, with the cement industry and the production of ferroalloys responsible for over 90 percent of total emissions.
- Emissions from the waste sector account for seven percent of total national emissions. The average share of the waste sector in national emissions in developed countries is two to three percent.
- The country's forests absorb 1.77 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. In 2007, however, some 39,612 hectares of forests and grassland were affected by fire, resulting in significantly higher emissions



Why is this database important?

- By presenting the proportion of emissions produced by each sector of the economy, the inventory provides valuable information for prioritizing efforts and designing technical solutions to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Altogether, the inventory provides important guidance for policy-makers to reduce emissions and help inform the public and media debate on this issue.
- Reliable greenhouse gas inventories are essential at the international level for assessing national efforts to address climate change and make progress towards meeting the ultimate objective of the Convention on Climate Change.

Comparison with other countries

- The country has 1.7 times lower emissions per capita than the European Union average, and emissions are nearly four times lower than highly industrialized countries like the US.
- This level of emissions per person is similar to rates in Latvia and Turkey.
- Another relevant indicator is energy intensity. According to the greenhouse gas inventory, the country's carbon intensity is 4.3 times higher than the average in European Union countries.
- The development of the inventory was possible because of the support of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, and the close cooperation with many other governmental institutions and private companies.

WHERE DO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COME FROM:



74%
ENERGY SECTOR



13%
AGRICULTURE
SECTOR



7%
WASTE



6%
INDUSTRIAL
PROCESSES

Development is about people and Development Stories brings people and their stories to the forefront—the people we work for and the people we work with.

Through interviews and feature stories, news and reviews of all our latest projects, and interesting facts from UNDP-backed research, this magazine brings our development work to life.

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