

# JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

## **INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES**

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

## NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

*At the release of this Country Profile, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had not updated it and therefore any new changes will appear on our web page: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>*

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**LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS**

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization

WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)



## **CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES**

**Decision-Making:** The Government of Republic of Macedonia, in particular the Ministries of: Foreign Affairs, Environment and Physical Planning; and other respective ministries, within their respective competencies, are responsible for issues related to international cooperation. The coordination is performed within inter-ministerial groups and through the Commission for Economic System, Sustainable Development and Current Economic Policy of the Government as well as ad-hoc at the sessions of the Government's cabinet. As for the international cooperation at the level of local authorities, Councils of municipalities and Mayors may make autonomous decisions on matters of municipal international co-operation, subject to, in certain limited instances, providing information to higher national authorities for an opinion.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has introduced the Law on competition, by which the problems of the monopolies are regulated. The Government has undertaken adequate measures to stimulate foreign investment in this field, by decreasing the tariffs to the level proposed by the WTO and other international organizations and by making the national economy more transparent and open, and to increase its efficiency.

In 1997, the NEAP was adopted which contains development policies and cooperation strategies at the local, national and regional level. At present, several LEAPS have been developed elaborating development policies only at a local plan.

NGO's are in great deal involved in the decision making process, mainly by advising in some specialized areas of their interest and by making observations. Local authorities are taking part in the process of the regional cooperation particularly within the so-called cross-border cooperation among the municipalities of the neighboring countries. The involvement of the above mentioned groups is mainly advising and observing and partly decision-making, in the case of the local authorities. The private sector is rarely involved in these activities so far. One of the main goals of the Government is to create in the near future favorable conditions for an increased participation of the private sector in the international cooperation.

**Programmes and Projects:** A number of projects are designed to improve the environment and economic well-being of the citizens (Protection of the lakes of Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran, river Vardar, projects for resolving different environmental problems in certain municipalities etc.). However, there is a need to enhance financial assistance from the international funds and organizations, particularly GEF/UNDP and others. Some projects worth mentioning are: Assistance from the Netherlands' Government for projects for energy efficiency and waste water treatment; Phare Cross Border Cooperation Programme, project for Monitoring System of Vardar River. So far the Republic of Macedonia has established bilateral and multilateral cooperation with donors for financial assistance for projects related to activities for sustainable development. On bilateral level, a fruitful cooperation has been established with governments of Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Japan, USA and some others.

**Status:** The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, due to the negative impact of the Kosovo crises in 1999-2000 requested some debt relief measures, but has not been granted any of such measures.

The main challenge is how to improve cooperation with NGOs, private sector etc., in order to develop and implement the National Sustainable Development Strategy (in the process of preparation).

**Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The promotion of the public awareness is conveyed mainly through organization of public seminars, through media information etc. Several educational programmes are planned to be introduced in the near future. It is important to get financial aid and develop think-tank projects in education and strengthening capacities on the part of identification and formulation, selection, administration and management of projects.

**Information:** Information through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is transmitted to the competent ministries further responsible for disseminating the information to all parties concerned. So far all the information is not yet

accessible via Internet. Also, information is available through mass media. Information is also provided through publication of government documents, open forum for discussion, round tables, etc.

**Research and Technologies:** Various governmental and other public institutions work on the issues of development and transfer of technology and there is a need for harmonization, to have them represented in a national body responsible for sustainable development. The need for education is also identified. A National Cleaner Production Center is in the process of being established in Macedonia, based on international practice and experience.

**Financing:** The World Bank, USAID, Council of Europe, GEF and PHARE are main multilateral providers of financial assistance. As for Official Developmental Assistance (ODA), the Republic of Macedonia has only received some financial assistance through UNDP, which is not sufficient.

**Cooperation:** The Republic of Macedonia, as a member of the CSD, is making efforts to participate actively in all major international events related to the sustainable development and, at the same time, is in the process of ratifying and implementing all major related treaties. The bilateral trade agreements that the Government has concluded with other countries are favorable to promotion of sustainable development, through enabling trade liberalization, protection of environment etc. On a bilateral level, a fruitful cooperation has been established with governments of Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Japan, USA and some others. There is regional bilateral cooperation, and bilateral agreements have been signed in the field of environment and sustainable development with Bulgaria, Albania and Greece, and with FR of Yugoslavia.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has participated in the work of relevant international organizations to adopt sustainable development principles and international development programmes. Within this context, the country cooperates with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the European Union Phare Programme, the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and others. The Republic of Macedonia is in the process of gaining entry into the World Trade Organization.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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### **CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Programme of Social Care and the relevant legal provisions lie within the competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

**Programmes and Projects:** Until 1992, the Assembly of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passed annual programmes for the protection of the socially disadvantaged and financially unsupported (the handicapped, the elderly and incapacitated, the unsupported, and parentless children). The programme use to cover about 12,000 people. Since 1992, the Government has passed annual programmes of social care. Social care now covers the above categories and three additional categories of people: employed persons not receiving sufficient income, the unemployed, and low pension beneficiaries. The programme covers approximately 60,000 people. Supporting mothers and mothers with no subsistence income receive social allowances until the third year of age of their children. This programme also applies to fathers, under the same conditions. Funds for these purposes are allocated from the country's budget.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the major responsibility for energy consumption lies within the national electricity management agency of the Ministry of Economy. Many scientific, academic, and non-governmental associations are also active in this issue area holding seminars and consultations promoting sustainable development principles.

The active major groups include the Association of Energy Workers of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Board of Energy Development of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and the Arts.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** Overall, the future direction for energy use includes: increasing the proportion of natural gas as an energy source and its introduction for household consumption; greater reliance on hydro energy through the construction of hydroelectric power stations; increasing the share of renewable energy sources; and implementing the approved National Programme of Energy Saving, Substitution and Rational Use By 2000. Efforts have been made in recent years to join the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the gas pipeline from Russia. This would certainly improve the national energy structure from an environmental aspect. The construction of hydroelectric power plants represents a second priority.

In the past five years, the volume of manufacturing and the consumption of natural resources have considerably decreased, primarily due to the structural reforms carried out during this period. The consumption of electricity in industry has also decreased. Thermo-electric power plants produce some 70% of the total electricity while hydro-electric power plants generate the remaining 30%. Fifty-five percent of the national demand for electricity is met through domestic production and 45% through imports.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Economy is responsible for making decisions concerning energy issues. The Ministry of Economy-Energy and Justice Departments within their respective competencies make proposals and send them to the Government Cabinet for adoption. In the decision-making process, the local-level representatives are included and consulted for some energy issues if necessary or appropriate.

Relevant laws and regulations concerning energy are: Law on energy; Tariff structure system for certain energy types; Resolution on establishing general conditions for supply of related to energy power systems; Methodology on pricing certain energy types. The new law on Energy from 1997 sets liberal conditions for working with energy in our country. More precisely domestic or foreign investors can invest in energy facilities without any limitations. The main elements of Macedonia's sustainable energy strategy are: Energy demands, especially the demands of natural gas as a natural environmental fuel; Available energy resources and energy facilities with its technical, energy and economy characteristics. Requirements for construction of energy projects; Funding required and resources to provide them; Possibility for energy efficiency use; Protection of environment and nature against harmful influence in operation of power facilities, devices and installations.

The preparation of the programme for construction of energy objects for the year 2015 is underway. This programme will establish short-term and long-term activities. Also underway is the preparation of the Strategy for complex development of the energy sector where other segments of energy will be defined.

Many scientific, academic, and non-governmental associations are also active in this issue area, holding seminars and consultations promoting sustainable development principles. The major active groups include the Association of Energy Workers of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Board of Energy Development of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and the Arts. All business and non-business subject as well as the scientific institutions are included in the decision-making process through the Chamber of Commerce, Consumers' Organization of Macedonia, professional councils, commissions, etc. So far there is no private capital invested in the energy production: this activity is performed by public enterprises and joint stock companies, at state and local level. NGOs, consumer groups, scientists and other major interest groups are timely informed and engaged in relation to the development and current issues regarding energy, energy balance etc.

**Programmes and Projects:** The Government has adopted a Programme for Energy Efficiency and preparation activities for making special Strategy for Energy Efficiency are underway. The programmes for transfer of energy to urban and rural areas are prepared by ESM and are realized through annual investment programmes. Macedonia has a programme to introduce natural gas in the consumption of urban and rural areas and heating systems. The preparation of new quality standards for liquid fuels is also underway.

**Status:** Overall, the future direction for energy use includes: (1) increasing the proportion of natural gas as an energy source and its introduction for household consumption; (2) greater reliance on hydro energy through the construction of hydroelectric power stations; (3) increasing the share of renewable energy sources; and (4) implementing the approved National Programme of Energy Saving, Substitution and Rational Use By 2000. Efforts have been made in recent years to join the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the gas pipeline from Russia. This would certainly improve the national energy structure from an environmental aspect. The construction of hydroelectric power plants represents a second priority.

In the past five years, the consumption of electricity in industry has considerably decreased. Thermo-electric power plants produce some 70% of the total electricity while hydro-electric power plants generate the remaining 30%. The EU's regulations in the energy field are to be institutionalized in our country, which entered the Energy Charter. At present, part of the legislation has been adjusted, and the rest will be accorded in the period to come by institutionalization of a competitive electricity market in the region and by implementation of the privatization process of public enterprises and ESM.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Designing primary and secondary school education curriculum for promoting an early awareness of energy-environment-related issues will follow in the future period, according to the conditions that will provide its realization.

**Information:** In accordance with the Energy Law, the Ministry of Economy-Energy Sector provides and analyzes data regarding energy issues in our country. At the domestic level there is complete information regarding the energy production and consumption per producers and consumers. In the Ministry of Environment there is a Center that registers data regarding energy influence on the atmosphere and the transport.

**Research and Technologies:** To utilize potential hydro-power, currently underway is the construction of new hydro power plants. Regarding the usage of biomass, preliminary studies are underway as well as a pilot-project for its usage in the agricultural complex.

**Financing:** Energy projects and programmes in our country are financed by: the current working of the energy enterprises; commercial credits and; grants form other countries' governments.

**Cooperation:** Bilateral activities are implemented in the framework of the activities of joint commissions. Through bilateral cooperation with several countries, grants were provided for the realization of energy projects. The multilateral cooperation is carried out in the framework of SEECI, CEI, BSEC, Stability Pact, SBDI, and UN-ECE. Macedonia became party to the Agreement for Energy Charter Treaty and Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

**Decision-Making:** Main responsibility for decision-making is with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, with certain areas, such as the implementation of the Law for the security of road transportation, covered by the Ministry of Interior. Also, at the Ministry of Transport, there is a Department for civil aviation and Department for water transportation. Besides the state organs, there are several public enterprises: “Makedonija Pat” responsible for maintaining regional and roads of wider importance; “Makedonski zeleznici” responsible for management of the rail transportation etc. The main form of coordination for the regulation of the transport system in Republic of Macedonia is done through meetings of joint expert groups with participation of representatives from different ministries. Local government is responsible for management of city transportation and local transport system. Main laws and regulations are: Law for the transportation in the road traffic; Law for public roads; Law for the safety of the public transportation; Law for the Macedonian railways; Law for the internal water traffic; Law for the air transportation, etc. All these laws are in accordance with the European Union regulation. Emission standards, safety codes, maintenance standards, and incentive mechanisms aimed at reducing vehicle emissions are being prepared in accordance with the standards set by the European Union.

Transportation policy of the EU, including its standards and regulations, are the basis for the formulation of the Macedonian transportation strategy. In the short-term, the Government plans to construct several roads: modernization of the M-1 road from Demir Kapija to Gevgelija (44 km); construction of the part of the highway E-75, from Gevgelija to Greek border (15,8 km); Reconstruction of Stip-Radovis-Strumica road (60 km); construction of Skopje Tetovo highway (35,7 km) etc. In the long-term, the Government’s plans include: construction of the part of the highway E-75 Negotino-Demir Kapija (15,4 km); construction of railway Kumanovo-Belakovce-Kriva Palanka-bulgarian border (54,5 km) etc. At the moment, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia is considering ways to develop alternative transportation modes which would be more conducive to environmental protection, and at the same time aimed towards stimulation of vehicle fleet upgrading, by minimizing the tariffs for import of vehicles and diminishing all other taxation except the VAT.

Apart from the governmental bodies, there are several NGOs active in this field as well as the Economic Chamber of Macedonia and transportation unions.

**Programmes and Projects:** Usage of tramway in the city of Skopje is a planned future project

**Status:** The Republic of Macedonia is a land-locked country and therefore transportation is mainly done by land (roads, railways) and by air. The mode of transport that requires the most immediate attention is the road transportation. The technical aspect of roads in Macedonia are satisfactory. The biggest problems in traffic efficiency derive from border crossings with some neighboring countries.

The average age of vehicles in Macedonia is 15 years. That is why we have to reduce all tariffs and eliminate other taxation on vehicle imports. The main reasons preventing Macedonia from further reducing emissions are high tariffs and extremely high taxation rates for vehicle import.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** In the Republic of Macedonia there is a Council for public transportation safety, which has its annual programme executed through the educational system and the media. All TV and radio stations are contributing a great deal in the presentation of the problems of environment protection. National television has a special programme broadcasted weekly, and every media broadcast provides 6-7 minutes of ‘eco-news’ every day.

There are no official measures to encourage enhanced use of public transport, car-pooling, or non-motorized transportation at this point, but it will be undertaken in near future. Students have certain school subjects in which they are closely introduced to the relationship between transport and environment.

**Information:** The Fund for regional roads and roads of wider importance is responsible for gathering information related to transport and traffic systems (vehicle type, vehicle age etc.). Based on this information, annual reports are



being made according to the standards set by the European Union. Data is available to the public through statistical and annual brochures and through media presentation (news agencies, newspapers, magazines, etc). Data is also partially available on Internet web sites.

The Ministry of interior makes annual reports with a precise methodology according to which appropriate activities are being taken by the competent authorities in order to decrease the rate of traffic accidents, etc.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** Most important national sources for financing are taxes on fuel consumption, incomes from the annual vehicle registration etc. In addition, foreign multilateral credits (main external source of financing for this purpose) and partly bilateral credits, and also (symbolic) foreign donations also help finance transportation

**Cooperation:** The Republic of Macedonia has ratified several international agreements and conventions: on European railway network (1985); on Road transportation (1968); on Construction of vehicles (1958); Agreement for commercial road transportation-CMR (1956); the Protocol of CMR (1978); TIR Convention (1975) and Transportation of dangerous materials-ADR (1957).

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## CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Decision-Making:** The Population Policy and Social Care for Children Division of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has coordinated population policy implementation by various responsible ministries since 1987. It reports to the Government on this work.

In 1987, the Resolution of the Population Policy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was passed to allow for population growth to adjust to the socio-economic development of the country. This allowed for a socially active population policy aimed at achieving a rational biological reproduction based on more moderate birth rates and a lower infant mortality rate. With its positive legislation and other relevant documents, the Government of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contributes to changing reproductive behavior to achieve a balance between individual and social aims by stimulating families to have three children at the most. The main objective of the measures implemented in the area of population policy is to decrease the level of population growth. In the past, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's population growth has been characterized by chaotic trends. Now, with the passing of the 1987 Resolution, the long-term aim is to achieve a more moderate birth rate level.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** Within the framework of the Constitution, which allows every person to exercise freely his/her right to have children, the population policy measures and activities are expected to change existing attitudes towards population regeneration, with the aim of creating a model of the modern family with an average of 2.2 children. Population policy measures are not directed at birth control only, but (and most of all) to changing the economic, social, health care, and educational circumstances in order to implement harmonized demographic, social, and economic development. The organizations that execute population policy carry out relevant measures, therefore, in the areas of education, social and health care, training and education, scientific and research work, information, advertising, and legislative procedures.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Construction, Urban Planning and Environment, in cooperation with other ministries is responsible for human settlements.

The representatives of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated actively in the work of Habitat II, held in Istanbul. In order to direct the spatial development of the country's settlements, urban development plans have been formulated for growing settlements, and space has been allocated according to these plans. The urban plans are implemented through licenses and approvals for construction from investment.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ministries of Development; Construction, Urban Planning and Environment; Finance; Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management; and national and local public enterprises all foster the integration of environment and development in decision making. The National Strategy of Economic Development and the National Ecological Action Plan are currently being prepared to incorporate the principles of sustainable development.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** The country is currently cooperating at the international level with The World Bank, the European Union Programme Phare, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other international agencies.

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## CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

**Decision-Making:** The Ministries responsible for decision making in the protection of atmosphere are: Environment and Physical Planning, Health, Transport and Communications, Agriculture; Forestry and Water Management; and, Economy. Cooperation with other ministries is progressing in accordance with legal responsibilities, and mutual issues are solved by establishing mixed working groups.

There is legislation in the Republic of Macedonia regulating the pollution of the atmosphere (emission of gases). The following legal acts and regulations regulate this area: Act on Environment and Nature Protection and Promotion; Act on Protection of Air against Pollution (Act on Amending the Act on Air Protection); Book of Regulations for Maximum Permissible Concentrations (MPC) and quantities and other harmful matters that may be released into the air from individual sources of pollution; Order for obligatory attest of diesel engines and motor vehicles regarding gas pollutants; Book of regulations on the methodology for monitoring and identification of harmful matters in the air; Book of regulations on the manner and terms, control and recording of measurements of released harmful matters in the air from facilities, plants and devices that could pollute the air above the MPC; Book of regulations on the manner and conditions for notification of competent bodies regarding the performed systematic monitoring and examination of the level of pollution of the air on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. In accordance with penalty provisions of the Act on Environment and Nature Protection and Promotion, fines are collected from all those that in any way pollute the atmosphere.

The general strategy is incorporated in the NEAP (National Environmental Action Plan) financed by the World Bank, as well as in the Development Strategy of MANU (Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts). General directions are also indicated by the NEHAP (National Environmental Health Plan) supported by the World Health Organization. National Strategy for Elimination of Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer has been developed in the Republic of Macedonia (there is an Office with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning). In general, strategies related to greenhouse gas emissions are incorporated in the NEAP. In 1996, the National programme for ODS replacement was developed, representing basic doctrine providing basic guidelines for implementation of activities aimed at ozone layer protection in the Republic of Macedonia. As far as the ozone layer depletion is concerned, short-term objectives are for instance implementation of investment projects in industry using ODS, control of export and import and consumption of ODS in accordance with the principles of the Montreal Protocol, while long-term objective is full elimination of substances depleting the ozone layer.

The Republic of Macedonia agreed to establish National Committee on Climate Change, aimed at policy management, composed of representatives of relevant ministries, members of MANU, representatives of NGOs, representatives of the private sector, etc.

**Programmes and Projects:** Measures aimed at fuel substitution (heavy oil to natural gas) have been undertaken, and high number of different projects for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this area are underway. In the Ozone Office, demonstration project for alternative uses of methyl-bromide in the agriculture is in the process of implementation. This project provides basis for submission of proposals for projects aimed at methyl-bromide elimination. In the framework of the UNDP/GEF project on climate change (aimed at developing the First National Communication as an obligation deriving from UNFCCC), all areas, mainly forests, representing sinks of those gases will be recorded. Once we obtain complete presentation of gas emissions, specific measures for sinks enlargement will be proposed. In the framework of the UNDP project "Clean and Green Macedonia", each involved municipality decides individually on environmental issues, including those concerning enlargement of forest and green areas. In the framework of the Project for the First National Communication of the Republic of Macedonia on Climate Change, activities have been carried out with regard to the development of inventory of polluters, vulnerability and adaptation analysis. In this process, MANU and the Republican Hydrometeorological Institute (RHMI) are involved.

**Status:** There is a significant phenomenon in Veles, where the number of respiratory diseases are increased due to industrial pollution, and ultra-violet radiation is increased due to the ozone layer depletion, leading to suppression of the immunity system, cataract, skin cancer. Concentration of smog and smoke increases especially in winter, thus making traffic, communal activities etc. functioning difficult.

According to the data obtained, processed and calculated so far and referring to urban environments, we can conclude that the level of pollution is high, especially with SO<sub>2</sub> in Veles, Skopje, Tetovo and Bitola, with sediment particles (in Skopje and Bitola). Major polluters are industrial facilities and means of transportation, and in Skopje heating boilers as well. In other towns the level of pollution is low.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The public is informed on the activities carried out in the framework of the Projects for the First national communication via radio, TV and press, and journalists have shown great interest, asking for more information by themselves. As far as atmosphere protection is concerned, there is a Public Communication Office within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, which distributes information in this area.

The Project GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) initiated in 1998 includes 10 primary/secondary schools through the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Education and Peace Corps. In schools, there are specially trained teachers working with the students in 4 major areas: climate, water, soil and land cover. In the framework of the workshops related to the Project on the First national communication on climate change, technical professionals from universities and relevant institutions are involved. About 250 servicemen and facilities have been trained with RPM in collection/recycling of cooling media. With regard to the data base, separate software for monitoring and control of import/export and ODS consumption has been developed. The GLOBE Project provided training of GLOBE instructors.

**Information:** Automatic monitoring stations are interconnected with telemetric system, and data from manual stations (of RHMI and RIHP) are transmitted via fax/mail. Database is developed after the receipt of data. Indicators used are the concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, smoke, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, suspended particles in the air, dust, ozone, radiation, moisture, temperature, wind velocity and speed. The above information are distributed in two ways: through the Public Relations Office functioning within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and through press conferences held each month in the Ministry.

**Research and Technologies:** The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning collects information from three sources: automatic air pollution monitoring system, composed of 4 stations positioned in the capital, connected with the main display in the center of the city, providing access to information on air pollution to each citizen, the operation of which is automatic. Data are obtained on hourly basis. The next one is the system of the Republic Hydro-Meteorological Institute (RHMI), which is manual, and the system of the Republican Institute for Health Protection (RIHP), which is manual, too. Data are obtained on daily basis. RHMI and RIHP are obliged to transmit data to this Ministry, after which such data are processed and transmitted to the European Environmental Agency (EEA). In addition, the implementation of the project for desulphurization of the lead and zinc smelter in Veles is in the stage of negotiation with the Slovenian Government (through technical assistance)

**Financing:** From the central government, 12 million denars are allocated for air protection, which is insignificant. There are no private sources, and currently two projects are going on, partially financed by USAID aimed at substitution of crude oil to natural gas, in an amount of DEM 80.000 and \$US150.000. Co-financier of projects is the Fund of Environment (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning).

**Cooperation:** The Department of Euro-integration comprises Division for bilateral and Division for Multilateral cooperation. The present level of activity in this context is rather low. Activities are related mainly to building of structures and capacity strengthening in governmental bodies, scientific institutions and industry. The Republic of Macedonia ratified the CCC in 1998 and at present the development of the First national communication on climate change to the convention is underway. After that, more specific steps towards project implementation will be undertaken. The Kyoto Protocol has not been ratified by the Republic of Macedonia. Final decision will be reached once we collect and analyze enough information. In, 1994, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Ministries of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment; Health Care; and Economy are primarily responsible for protecting the atmosphere. The country has developed a National Program for Hazardous Substances Substitution in cooperation

with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Conventions related to the prevention of trans-boundary air pollution are ratified and the Republic of Macedonia takes an active part in some of the activities concerning LRTAP, which is ratified.

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## **CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** Land use planning is conducted in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the Ministry of Construction, Urban Planning and Environment in cooperation with a whole network of regional municipal offices throughout the country. The Ministry of Construction, Urban Planning and Environment is responsible for overall coordination of a new Spatial Plan.

During the transition period, land use has been rational, organized, and regulated by the new Act on Spatial and Urban Planning (1996) which gives special attention to sustainable development and natural resource protection. A new Spatial Plan, currently being prepared for the country, will also integrate sustainable development principles. The development of this plan is being completed by the expert agencies for spatial management.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia actively participated in the work of Habitat II and intends to integrate principles adopted at this conference in its land management decision making and implementation.

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## CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

**Decision-Making:** The development policy and legal basis for forest management in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, which is also responsible for several regional offices.

The status of forests in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has generally been specified by the Constitution. Forests have been defined as public goods and have been placed under special legislative care. They are still managed in accordance with the Act on Forests passed in 1974 (The Official Gazette of SRM Nos. 44/91 and 83/92) under which forests can be either publicly or privately owned. The new act on forests, currently being approved, will continue this state-private ownership duality. In addition, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is actively preparing its National Ecological Action Program (NEAP) to contribute to world-wide efforts to protect forests as a crucial environmental factor.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** It is important to state that the forest resource has been continuously increasing in volume year after year due to the protective components of forest management. Special attention has been given to afforestation which directly influences the forest stock and environmental protection. The increase in volume can be measured in the wood stock surface area and the increase (a permanent increase) in the production potential.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is preparing to join the work related to the X3 Resolution from the second Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe. The Forest Section of the UN Economic Commission for Europe Trade Division (UEN/ECE) coordinates this activity.

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## **CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not yet signed the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa.

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## **CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ministries of Development; Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management; and Urban Planning, Construction and Environment are responsible for sustainable mountain development. Within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Agency for Developing Economically Underdeveloped and Frontier Areas is a specialized group responsible for the development of economically underdeveloped and frontier areas. Legislation defines special criteria to identify underdeveloped areas and necessary funding for activities is provided by the state's budget.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is responsible for agricultural and rural development in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management also plays a contributing role. The national legislative basis related to agriculture includes the following acts: (1) the Act on Agriculture Land Protection and Use; (2) the Act on Agriculture Development Promoting; (3) the Act on Weeds and Planting Material; and (4) the Act on Protection of Plants Against Diseases and Living Beings Jeopardizing Agricultural Output in the Country. This legal basis was derived from the former Yugoslavia. Currently, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is preparing new acts which will be altered and adjusted to meet the requirements of sustainable development.

Plans have been approved for rural settlements to identify development areas with special emphasis given to the development of agriculture and the economy. The principles of sustainable development, rational use of agricultural land and healthy food production, and development trends have been taken into account in the formulation of these plans.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** Agriculture is the major economic sector providing healthy and high-quality food in Macedonia. To promote agriculture, the Government has passed regulations regarding the manner in which comparative advantages of food production will be achieved. With the country in transition, efforts have been made in the field of agriculture to identify the way in which reform measures are to be implemented in the most efficient way.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** International financial organizations, such as The World Bank, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the European Union Phare Program have played a major part in this development process by providing grants and technical assistance to increase agricultural output and promote rural development.

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## CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**Decision-Making:** Since the country's independence, the Government has initiated action to implement international agreements and conventions or integrate them into the national legal system. In this context, the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has initiated a procedure to pass the legislation required to ratifying international conventions through the Macedonian Parliament. These agencies, under the leadership of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment, have produced a special development document on the integrated protection of environment and nature, entitled the National Ecological Action Program (NEAP). The NEAP covers the maintenance and management of biodiversity in protected areas in Macedonia. Recently, existing development documents relating to space and biodiversity have also been updated. As a result, several alterations and amendments have been introduced to existing legal instruments, in particular to acts related to environmental protection and nature maintenance. Within the past four years (1992-1996), the Macedonian Parliament has passed the following acts: (1) the Act on the System of Spatial and Urban Planning; (2) the Act on Alterations and Amendments to the Act on Natural Rarities; (3) the Act on Alterations and Amendments to the Act on National Parks Protection; (4) the Act on Alterations and Amendments to the Act on Protection of the Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran Lakes; (5) the Act on Establishing a Strict Natural Reserve at "Ezerani"; (6) the Act on Hunting; (7) the new Act on Forests; and (8) the new Act on Waters. In addition, a new Act on Environment and Nature Protection is currently in draft and under parliamentary procedure.

The National Ramsar Committee of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been actively engaged in the implementation of the provisions of international conventions for environmental protection. The Committee is currently working within the framework of the Society for the Study and Protection of Birds in Macedonia. Representatives of state bodies, scientific and expert institutions, and the V3 NGO are members. Part of its activities are conducted under the auspices of the Forum on Biodiversity of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FOBIDEM).

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** A national body to monitor the current status of biodiversity in the country has not yet been established. However, activities in this area are being completed by the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** At the national level, capacity-building and technology issues have been covered by the Sector for Environment and Nature Protection at the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment. The Sector has, for example, developed a paper on land and natural rarities protection. At the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Forestry Sector has an expert team engaged in wildlife conservation which has produced two papers on hunting (Wild Animals Protection) and forestry (Forest Plant Species Protection).

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** Several scientific and expert state institutions support biodiversity research, such as the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Museum of Nature and Science of Macedonia, the Hydro-Biological Agency from Ohrid, the National Agency for Natural Rarities Protection, the Main Office for Natural Parks and Hunting Reserves in Macedonia, the Biology Institute at the Skopje University of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Forestry Institute at the Skopje Forestry University, and the Institute for Cattle Breeding.

**Financing:** To date, the maintenance of biodiversity has been financed from the state's budget. The budget supports projects and programmes to maintain biodiversity in protected areas; scientific and research work (surveying specific areas that are outside protected areas); genetic engineering development; and projects to raise the level of

ecological awareness on the importance of biodiversity among the population. However, funds from the state's budget have not been sufficient.

**Cooperation:** At the micro-regional level, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has initiated the establishment of the Union for Studying and Protecting the Balkan Flora and Fauna (Bitola, Macedonia, 1992). It currently holds the chair for the Union. At the regional level, the country has been active in the work of the Regional Environmental Center of Central and Eastern European Countries and has initiated the creation of a special department for the study and protection of the regional biodiversity of Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC). In addition, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has played an active role in the activities of the European Center for Nature Conservation, the European Union's work for the protection of biodiversity in Europe, and the Council for the Implementation of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity (at the Council of Europe). Since 1994, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been an active member state of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) and of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and since 1995, of the World Center for Biodiversity Monitoring.

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## **CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION, AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

### **Decision-Making:**

*Technologies:* Support for sound technologies has already been integrated into the National Ecological Action Plan (NEAP) and several projects and studies are currently underway. The new Act on Environmental Protection, which is soon expected to be approved by the Government, includes the task of identifying environmentally sound technologies as the basis for further development in the country.

*Biotechnologies:* The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management supervises the work of all agencies in the area of biotechnology. The Ministry of Science tracks biotechnology projects and funds their implementation. Finally, the Academy of Arts and Sciences is an important contributor to biotechnology research. In more specific terms, the special Institute for Biotechnology at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and the Arts monitors current trends in the development of biotechnology throughout the world. Another Biotechnology Institute also exists within the University of Technology and Metallurgy. At the Agriculture Institute a special team of experts works on new kinds of plants and animal species.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Status:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Information:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Financing:**

*Technologies:* No information available.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Cooperation:**

*Technologies:* In this context, the country has developed cooperation with several multilateral funds and agencies, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Ozone Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.



**CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** Being a continental country, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not a signatory party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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## **CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** Water resources are the responsibility of the National Water Management Administration, a division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. The Act on Waters and the Water Management Basis of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia provides the legal instruments for national water management.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** With water as an integral element of the country's economy, water management plays an important role in human life and in the production of healthy and high quality-food. The first priority of national water management is to provide clean sanitary water for the needs of the population. Natural resources are almost exclusively used to meet the demands of the population and for the needs of specific food industries which require clean water. Public water supply systems, which meet the population's demands during most of the year, have been constructed in all municipal centers (towns). At specific times, especially during the summer period, there may be a deficiency in the supply of water due to low water levels and increased consumption. Existing water supply systems will have to be reconstructed and rehabilitated for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to have access to high-quality water. The use and maintenance procedures also needs modernization through systematic monitoring of hydrologic conditions.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

**Decision-Making:** In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ministries of Economy; Health Care; and Labour and Social Policy have responsibility for the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. In addition, the Agency for Labour Medicine and the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management; and Urban Planning, Construction and Environment play a role in this issue area.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** The Republic has followed the toxic substances recommendations from Agenda 21 and is trying to adjust existing national regulations in this area. This particularly applies to the safe use of chemical toxic substances in industry, especially in the chemical industry. In addition, a special commission is responsible for training individuals engaged in the transportation of dangerous products.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES**

### **Decision-Making:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* The Ministries of Economy; Urban Planning, Construction and Environment; Health Care; and Interior are responsible for the environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, housing and public utilities, state enterprises, and industrial and economic enterprises contribute to this issue.

*Radioactive wastes:* In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the most competent body for radioactive waste management is the Ministry of Economy, supported by its technical facilities. In the area of science, radioactive emissions monitoring is completed by the Institute for Using Radiothopes in Science and Economy, and the Health Care Agency.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### **Status:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* The management of solid wastes has been one of the major environmental issues in the Republic. Currently, these wastes are usually stored at sanitary disposal sites which are not sufficiently safe. The development of effective and efficient legal measures for solid waste disposal is one of the main tasks of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Environment, and the other involved agencies.

*Radioactive wastes:* The country does not produce radioactive wastes. However, such wastes may occur from the use of radioactive substances in nuclear medicine. This type of radioactive waste is disposed of in a safe manner.

### **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### **Information:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### **Financing:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### **Cooperation:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not yet signed the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. However, initial activities are underway for its adoption. The Republic does follow the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) recommendations integrating them into its own legal structure.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

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## **CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS**

**Women:** No information available.

**Children and youth:** Decision-making: In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the most important fora promoting dialogue between youth and government on Agenda 21 issues are: (1) The Council for Raising and Educating the Children of Macedonia; (2) The Pioneer Center "Karpos" in Skopje; (3) The action "I Love Nature - I Love Life;" (4) The Public Technique of Macedonia; and (5) The Forum of Young Ecologists (FOMEK). These groups have an advisory role in the national process of moving towards sustainable development. The Agenda 21 goal of more than 50% of youth, gender balanced, having access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training has already been achieved.

**Indigenous people:** No information available.

**Non-governmental organizations:** Status: In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, NGO inputs are very important in terms of Agenda 21 implementation.

**Local authorities:** Status: The Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supports local agenda 21 initiatives.

**Workers and trade unions:** No information available.

**Business and industry:** Decision-making: To increase the efficiency of resource use, the National Ministry of Economy has passed a special Act on Using Waste That May Be Used As Secondary Raw Materials. In addition, there are governmental policies which require recycling. Status: Specialized enterprises and public institutions in this area occasionally organize actions for gathering secondary raw materials.

**Scientific and technological community:** No information available.

**Farmers:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS**

This issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## **CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING**

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## **CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## **CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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## **CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS**

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are responsible for the activities regarding sustainable development. They coordinate by convening joint meetings on the issues concerned, then inform the Government Cabinet on certain initiatives and propose appropriate action. The Cabinet considers these proposals and decides upon them. Within the Government, there is a national inter-ministerial body for sustainable development. Local governments are responsible for some areas of activities in the field of sustainable development mainly at the local level in the municipalities. However, they are involved in decision making in all areas concerning improvement of the life of local population.

Mainly government representatives, partly scientist in their respective fields, and local authorities for the information regarding local initiatives and projects, are actively involved in information collection, assessment, management and dissemination, and use of data for decision making. At present, the role of private sector in this field is minimized. However, the Government is committed to realization of certain programmes for stimulation of the private sector participation, particularly in the field of providing information and partly in decision-making. Consultations with major groups in the development of an information system and indicator programme, are still undergoing, and this exchange of opinions will be crucial for the future activities of the Government in this field.

**Programmes and Projects:** The project for creation of a national information network, supervised by the Government, is aimed at improving the current design of the national information network. Information services regarding the sustainable development at local level are being made available through the Ministry of Local Management (municipalities). Each municipality will be directly connected with the national information network and will have an immediate access to all the necessary information. With the project for creation of national information network, a significant increase of the present network capabilities is planned. This would allow dissemination of all data regarding the sustainable development activities.

**Status:** All the activities regarding the development and use of indicators for sustainable development, collection, standardization and use of data on sustainable development are located in different government ministries or other bodies. However, all information is presented to the Government's cabinet by those ministries and appropriate decisions are being made in accordance with the presented needs and assessments. The Government is in a process of creation of a national information network to include also data regarding the sustainable development. At this point main means or channels of information are through printed booklets, brochures, reports and media presentations. The development of indicators on sustainable development are at an initial phase. So far, they are utilized mainly by the Statistical unit, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank for some projections, as well as for research and planning. In near future there will be a central Internet web site for providing national information on sustainable development

Developing of indicators for sustainable development and its usage by the private sector and particularly by the local authorities, require the most immediate attention in improving the flow and management of information at present.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Measures to promote public use of information on sustainable development include media campaigns, educational seminars etc. Main activities aimed at capacity-building for improving information collection, assessment, management and dissemination, are aimed at training of experts and technical staff mainly abroad with more experience in this field, but also trainings organized domestically by our national experts.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** There is no precise data on the exact amount of financial resources spent for this purpose or to specify the percentage of the national budget or any other source allocated to this end. However, so far the main source for financing of these activities is the national budget. The Government is making efforts to attract private and foreign

investments for financing of the data collection and creation of the national information system for sustainable development.

**Cooperation:** The main field of cooperation on regional and international level in sharing information is the protection of environment and economic indicators data. Republic of Macedonia has adhered to and ratified all major international conventions and on that occasion has informed respective secretariats on its activities and measures undertaken. The Government is making efforts to further cooperation in the transfer of technology and know-how particularly with the developed countries. Technical assistance received so far is not sufficient and needs to be increased.

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## **CHAPTER: INDUSTRY**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** In the past five years, the volume of manufacturing and the consumption of natural resources have considerably decreased, primarily due to the structural reforms carried out during this period. The consumption of electricity in industry has also decreased.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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