Research on sustainable development in Bulgaria by using key indicators

Sustainable development

Strategies

- A concept or model for sustainable development of Bulgaria as a specific strategic document is not yet adopted.
- The main priorities of the *National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020* include key challenges for sustainable development.

Objectives

- Objectives of sustainable development are contained in key strategic documents such as the *National Environmental Strategy* and the *National environment and health action programme*.

Indicators

- A system of indicators for sustainable development has not been adopted on governmental level.
- *Bulgarian National Statistical Institute* has developed a system of indicators on a project with Eurostat. It consists of 10 themes which include 64 indicators, 13 of which are key.

Themes and key indicators - I

Socio-Economic Development

- **Growth rate of real GDP per capita**
- Investments
- Growth rate of labour productivity per man-hour
- Total R&D expenditure
- Total Employment rate

1

Sustainable Production and Consumption

- **Municipal waste generated per capita**
- **Energy consumption by sector**
- Area under organic farming

2

Social Inclusion

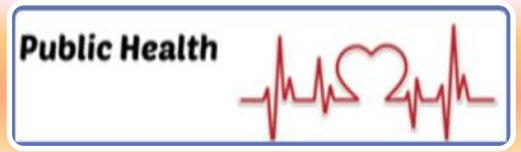
- Persons at-risk-of-poverty
- **Long-term unemployment rate**
- **Early leavers from education and training**

3

Themes and key indicators - II

- Total fertility rate
- Demographic replacement rate

4



- Life expectancy at birth

5

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Share of renewables in gross final energy consumption

6

Themes and key indicators - III

- **Modernisation of road infrastructure**
- Share of renewable energy in fuels consumption of transport

7

- **Population connected to urban wastewater treatment**

8

Still in development

9

- Access to e-government services

10

Indicators for sustainable development as audit objectives

- When auditing measures and activities.
- In the field of environment.
- When performing annual audits for budget execution.

Performed Audits

National priority to sustainable development:

- More energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES);
- Preservation and development of the central heating.

Challenges:

- one-sided development of RES;
- preferential pricing;
- guaranteed purchase of the energy from power stations with cogeneration of electricity;
- delays in market liberalization;
- lack of diversification of energy sources;
- obstacles to free competition.

Audit on price regulation and control over suppliers of heat, electricity, water and gas

National target for the implementation of European directives - 10% share of renewable energy in the transport sector, including biofuels.

- Mechanism for implementing the objectives;
- Blends of biodiesel and bioethanol.

Challenges:

- development of second-generation biofuels;
- no cost-benefit analyses or estimates;
- lack of the measures for encouraging the use of biofuels in the municipal/local level;
- integrated database is not established.

Audit on the implementation of EU and national targets for production and use of biofuels

Performed Audits

National priority to sustainable development: "Effective maintenance, modernisation and development of transport infrastructure“:

- Regulatory framework for development of railway infrastructure is harmonized with European legislation.

Challenges:

- delays in the absorption of funds under Priority Axis 1;
- insufficient preparation for implementing the project;
- changes in project priority levels
- inadequate financing by the State.

Audit on the implementation of Operational Programme "Transport" for construction of railway infrastructure

Two projects - Sofia metro extension and construction of intermodal terminal for railway transport in Sofia:

- defined indicators;
- compliance with approved procedures for verification and payments;
- monitoring the implementation of projects in accordance with requirements.

Challenges:

- not all set indicators were achieved;
- non-unified approach to reporting on the same indicators.

Audit on the implementation of projects under OP “Transport” for improvement of intermodality of passengers and freight

Performed Audits

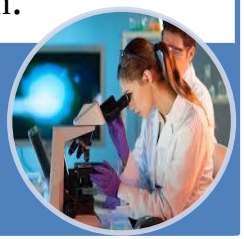
Contribution of "Horizon 2020" to achieving the national target - 1.5% of GDP spending for R & D.

- The Ministry of Education and Science is the National coordinator;
- Established coordination mechanism.

Challenges:

- no specific strategic document was adopted;
- priorities of "Horizon 2020" are included in the national strategic documents;
- different intermediate indicators were set in the various national strategic documents;
- lack of financial resources for the implementation of the measures;
- lack of financial incentives to encourage Bulgarian scientists and researchers;
- insufficient coordination and interaction.

Audit on the contribution of "Horizon 2020" to achieving the objectives of National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020



National objective - promoting employment of youth.

Challenges:

- youth employment is subject to numerous national strategic and operational documents under a different prism;
- ineffective action by the responsible authorities to address the reasons for the low employment rate of young people;
- apprenticeships and training not linked to the needs of the labor market;
- decreasing funds form the State budget;
- inadequate integration and coordination of efforts from the responsible institutions;
- ineffective use of tools for preliminary assessment of the impacts of measures.

Audit on providing employment for young people with EU funds under OP "Human Resources Development"

Performed Audits

Strategic goal - ensuring the social protection of vulnerable groups.

- established an effective organizational structure at national and regional level;
- amount of payments is determined in compliance with regulatory requirements;
- the necessary financial resources are provided;

Challenges:

- shortcomings concerning control and methodological functions;
- lack of a common integrated information system;
- no single approach to planning;
- non-alignment of planning with real needs;

There are prerequisites for achieving the strategic objective of reducing the number of people living in poverty by 260 000 by 2020 compared to the base 2008.

Performance audit on "Measures to ensure the social protection of vulnerable groups"

Long-term planning approach to reducing flood risk -

- Directive 2007/60/EC.

The most important conclusions from the audit:

- incomplete and delayed major activities;
- risk of non-compliance with the pre-conditions of the Partnership Agreement; could lead to the suspension of funds under OP.

Challenges:

- late start of the project;
- insufficient administrative capacity;
- frequent changes of management team, project implementation and management in the basin directorates;
- ineffective coordination and cooperation;
- ineffective measures by the Managing Authority (MA);
- Environmental impact assessments not carried out by the MA.

Performance audit on managing flood risk under Operational Programme "Environment"

Performed Audits

National objective - protection of human health in regards to food consumption

- radical change in the concept of food safety control system;
- existing legislation is synchronized with the principles of EU law;
- adopted a National Programme for Control of Genetically Modified Food in 2014.

Challenges:

- not fully developed secondary legislation acts (ordinances, internal operations, etc);
- lack of adequate incentives for employees of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency;
- insufficient financial and material resources;
- non-unified practice in the organization of control planning at the various regional directorates;
- specifics of food imports and its unpredictability make planning difficult;
- no integrated information system for veterinary control;
- lack of regulations for the use of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF);
- negative results from a nationally representative survey.

Audit on the effectiveness and efficiency of food safety control

Thank you

for your attention!