

**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR SMALL STATES  
Malta, 16-21 March 2009**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

Project Name: **Training Workshop Sustainable Development Strategies for Small States**  
Project Ref No: **WK SDS 01**  
Organisers: **The Small States Network for Economic Development in collaboration with the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta**  
Beneficiaries: **Officers in Public Sector Agencies in the following Small States: Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Fiji, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, Samoa, Seychelles, Vanuatu.**  
Host Country: **Malta**

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the project was to train public sector officials from small states, at senior or middle management levels, in adopting and supporting approaches conducive to the drawing up of a sustainable development strategy.

Other objectives included enabling participants to comprehend concepts and underlying criteria associated with a sustainable development strategy; promoting the idea among participants that various government departments should effectively interface among themselves and with the stakeholders in the drawing up of the strategy; familiarise participants with implementation methods, involving government entities and with participation processes involving major stakeholders; engaging participants in a simulation activity involving an attempt to arrive at a consensus among different interest groups and also engaging the participants in drawing up a presentation on to the status of sustainable development in their country, and delivering it during the workshop.

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES**

- Between September and November 2008, Ministries of Finance of small states members of the Small States Forum were informed about the workshop.
- Applications were accepted until 15 January 2009.
- A Programme was drawn up consisting of presentations by experts.
- A coordinating committee was established, responsible for organising travel and accommodation for participants and resource persons and taking care of other logistics related to the workshop.
- Resource persons were engaged in line with the Programme.
- The Workshop was held between 16 and 21 March 2009, as scheduled, at the Marina San George Hotel, St Julians, Malta

**THE PROGRAMME**

The workshop was structured in five main sessions on sustainable development strategies ( the full programme is available at <http://www.ssned.org/file.aspx?f=98>). Each session consisted of presentations by experts followed by discussion by participants, on the following main themes.

- The Pillars of Sustainable Development,
- International Aspects of Sustainable Development.
- Consultation with and among Stakeholders,
- Implementation of the Strategy,

One of the sessions consisted of a simulation exercise where participants grouped themselves into 4 special interest lobbies (the developers, residents, the planning agency and environmental NGOs). The groups were presented with a case of a large development project near a residential area. They were instructed to evaluate the project in terms of sustainable development and attempted to attain consensus.

A whole day was dedicated to country case studies presented by the participants. The last day consisted of a panel discussion entitled “Sustainable Development: The Way Forward”, followed by an open discussion and the adoption of a final statement.

## **RESOURCE PERSONS**

The resource persons included experts from the University of Malta, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, the Sustainable Development Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta, UNDESA, EUROSTAT, and the Welsh Assembly Government.

## **ATTENDANCE**

- 41 officials were nominated by their respective government to attend the workshop, of which 17 were selected on the basis of pre-established criteria, as set out in the terms of reference. 4 participants (3 of which were from Africa) could not attend due to complications relating to the Schengen Visa to enter Malta.
- The SSNED paid the airfare, a small per diem and accommodation for 9 participants. Participation at the workshop was free of charge.
- The small states represented were Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Fiji, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, Samoa, Seychelles and Vanuatu.

## **COMMENTS BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA**

The Hon. Chris Said, Junior Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for Public Dialogue and Information, who inaugurated the Workshop, commented very positively about the Programme of the Workshop and about the SSNED, referring to its contribution to capacity building in small states. He said that the SSNED has already undertaken considerable work since its inception whereby a number of small states were benefiting from the expertise of other small states and were gaining experience from sharing of best practice. He said that the Network is also providing education and training on issues of major interest to small states by organising such workshops.

Hon Said said that the topic chosen for the workshop was crucial for small states and stressed the importance of drawing up a National Strategy for Sustainable Development for small states. He was impressed by the array of themes to be covered during the workshop, which were all related to the drawing up of a sustainable development strategy. He hoped that the workshop would lead to the development of synergistic relationships between the small states represented in the workshop, and foster an awareness of the special constraints and opportunities faced by small states in their pursuit of sustainable development

## **FINAL STATEMENT**

The participants issued a final statement calling for the authorities of small states to draw up and implement a sustainable development strategy. They argued that small states have special sustainable development concerns and face serious constraints in attaining sustainable development goals (the statement is available at <http://www.ssned.org/file.aspx?f=121> ).

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **Project Leader for the Service Provider (SP-PL):**

Ms Isabelle Vella, Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta, University of Malta, Msida

*Responsibilities:* To collaborate with the Project Manager in the drawing up of the programme of the workshop; to engage resource persons in liaison with the Technical Advisor and the Project Manager; to form part of the project monitoring committee

### **The Technical Advisor (TA):**

Mr Joseph Gauci

Malta Environment and Planning Authority , St Francis Ravelin, Floriana, Malta

*Responsibilities:* To ensure that the themes of the workshop are appropriate and the resource persons engaged to deliver the training are sufficiently qualified; to form part of the project monitoring committee.

### **SSNED Focal Person and Project Manager:**

Maryrose Vella,

SSNED, Central Bank of Malta Annex, Valletta, Malta.

*Responsibilities:* To oversee the organisation of the workshop and ensure that all tasks are carried out effectively and efficiently and that all deadlines are met; to ensure that all expenses are within the budget.