



# **PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION**

**2010 - 2015**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Programme for Development of the Southwest planning region is a mid-term planning document produced in accordance with the Methodology for Preparation of Development Programmes No. 102, August 2009. As a primary strategic document the Programme for the Development of the Southwest planning region establishes the development objectives, priorities and measures based on the primary objectives and principles for equal regional development in the Republic of Macedonia.

Its legal basis is founded in Articles 12-14 of the Law on Equal Regional Development – a legal act that opens a new chapter in the area of sustainable development in the country, promoting the achieving equal regional development with the aim of decreasing the disparity between and within the eight planning regions, and to develop the potentials of all of the regions which shall contribute to the best possible degree towards the continued prosperity of the country. This Law, in parallel with all of the bylaws, strategies and programmes related to this issue, needs to ensure sustainable development which will fully contribute to better quality of life, social cohesion and protection of the natural and cultural heritage.

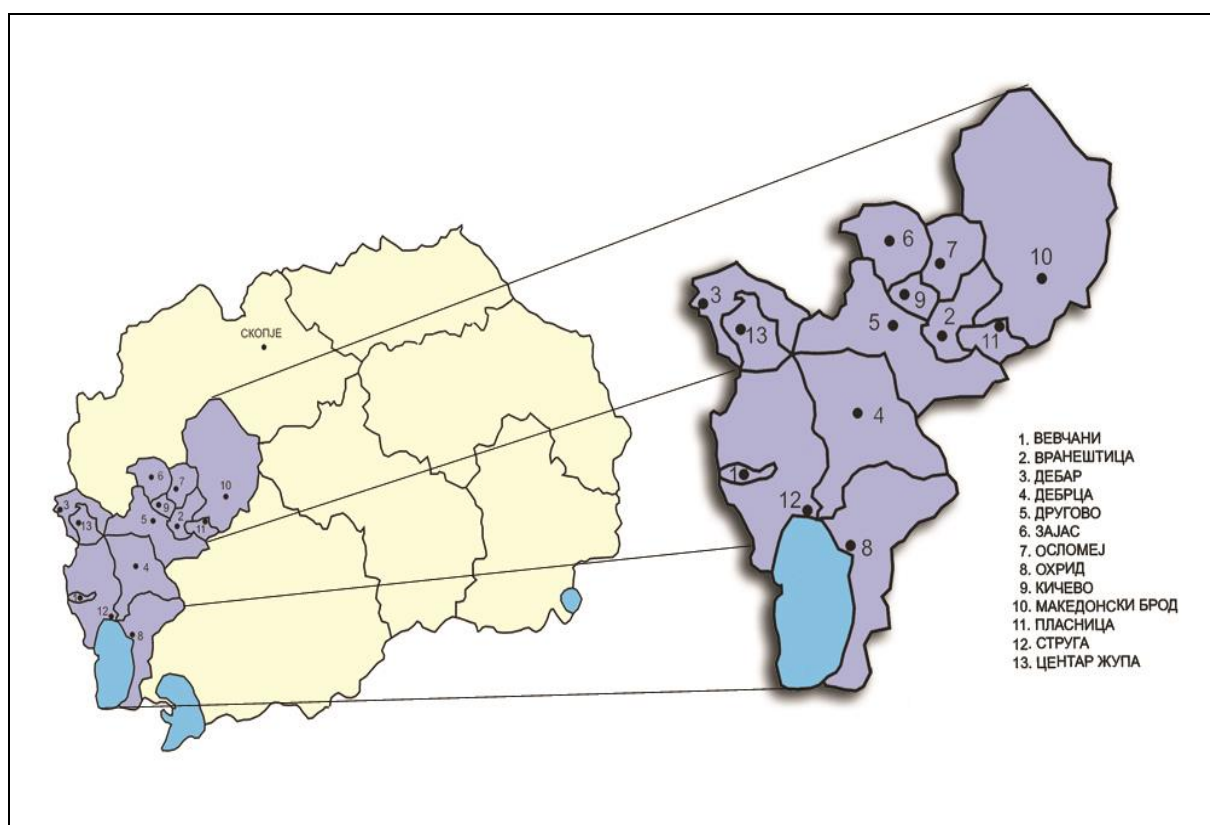
The planned equal development on the national and regional levels presupposes involvement of all the available potentials. This should generate benefits that shall apply to the creation of opportunities for everybody: development of the country as a whole, reduction of the apparent economic and social differences in the development of certain regions and municipalities, reduction of the differences in the quality of life between the urban and rural settlements, maintaining and development of special identities in certain parts of the regional entities and municipalities, including their affirmation, revitalisation and development of the regions with specific needs, creation of conditions for more prominent utilisation of the development potentials and resources, stronger competition, creation of conditions for the growth of the domestic and foreign investments and increasing of employment.

The general benefit of the programme should be improvement of living conditions, improvement of the infrastructure, creation of conditions for opening new businesses, raising the economic opportunities for the population and reduction of the migration from rural to the urban settlements. The programme places special focus of the new approaches towards the development of the state which should be felt in the municipalities composing the Southwest planning region via their economic and cultural development, appropriate participation of the municipalities in the development and the state in a longer period, intensification of mutual co-operation and the implementation of the cultural projects by obtaining appropriate funds. The Programme for Development of the Southwest planning region encompasses the definition of the objectives, priorities and measures, which shall instigate activities that shall enable application for funds for their implementation. The programme allows for establishment of a vision for the development of the area of Southwest planning region via qualitative and quantitative analyses that allow active and timely implementation of the projected goals.

### **Composition of the Region**

The Southwest planning region is composed from the following units of Local Self-Government, with their respective urban / rural municipalities:

Local Self-Government Unit	Urban Municipality	Rural Municipality	Number of Settlements
Struga	Struga		51
Ohrid	Ohrid		29
Kichevo	Kichevo		7
Debar	Debar		18
Makedonski Brod	Makedonski Brod		51
Drugovo		Drugovo	28
Vevchani		Vevchani	1
Vraneshtica		Vraneshtica	15
Debrca		Debrca	30
Zajas		Zajas	13
Oslomej		Oslomej	16
Plasnica		Plasnica	4
Centar Zhupa		Centar Zhupa	23
<i>Total Number of Settlements</i>			286



Map of the Region

## 1. Programme Description

The Programme for the Development of the Southwest planning region is a project that is commencing realisation within the framework of the Programme for National Economic Development supported by the German Society for Technical Co-Operation (GTZ). His programme started being realised on 01.01.2008 with a view to provide support for the building of the institutional capacities on national, regional and local levels of regional development. It is founded on the newly formed structures for inter-municipal co-operation on national and regional level, supported by the earlier GTZ – Redem Programme and the activities for support of municipal economic development implemented within the earlier GTZ-Med Programme. The programme itself for the Southwest planning region commenced with a planning workshop which was organised in Ohrid starting 01.04.2008. On it, GTZ representatives defined the priority thematic areas according to region and role of the entities included in the project preparation process. Based on this, the contents of the Programme for Development of the Southwest planning region covers: natural characteristics in the region; demographic development, economic characteristics, labour market, social development, infrastructure, tourism, cultural development, agriculture and rural development, protection of the environment and renewable sources of energy.

After adopting this conclusion by the Council for the Development of the Southwest planning region, a series of conferences were organised where the above mentioned thematic areas were further elaborated. The first series of conferences, held in May 2008, were utilised firstly to prepare and adopt the most relevant information in the description of the region, which is immediately related to the thematic areas. Then, based on this, a SWOT analysis was performed, the vision statements were prepared and at the end, the strategic and general objectives for each thematic area separately were proposed, elaborated, discussed and finally adopted. At the workshop, the consultants appointed by the GTZ presented already prepared and to a large extent developed platforms and proposals which served as a basis for discussion and group work, via which the proposals were further developed and they were finally obtained their final form. In this manner, in other words with previous preparation and development of working proposals by the expert and invited person and their further elaboration and adopted at the conferences, two objectives were met. On the one hand, the frameworks were set for an extensive creative, efficient and focused discussion and group work, which always were processed on the basis of a well prepared specific proposal and subject of discussion. On the one hand, the element of legitimacy was maintained at all time, which this document has due to the participation of all stakeholders in the Region starting from its preparation to the very adoption.

The second series of regional conferences were held in June 2008. Within the framework of the realised second series of conferences on the thematic areas, the participants work on the definition of the specific special objectives according to thematic area, including their development to the level of measures (programmes) and programme parameters, such as, establishing success indicators, assumptions/risks, Responsible persons and partners for implementation, time and financial framework and priorities. Subsequently, in September 2008, the involved experts completed the final working version and it was later delivered to all of the relevant institutions.

In the second half of 2008, with decisions by the municipalities making up the region, the Centre for development of the Southwest planning region was found as a legal entity. The personnel for the Centre were recruited in July 2009, while the Centre itself became fully functional in November 2009. A working version of the Development Programme from September was delivered by GTZ RED to the Development Council of the Republic of

Macedonia for approval, and this in turn was forwarded as a final document to the Centre after it was opened for work.

Due to the fact that almost two years have passed since the Programme was prepared (due the dynamicity of the material it elaborates), some of the conditions and assumptions taken into consideration during the preparation phase, are considerably different at present. In the meanwhile, the National Strategies in several areas and domains have also been prepared, new statistical data has been obtain, new laws and sublegal acts which must be taken into account in the Development Programme.

The Council for equal development of the Republic of Macedonia, on its session held on 7 December 2009, took into consideration all of the remarks related to the Programmes provided by separate Ministries, and due to the continuity of the realization of the already started ongoing activities, gave a positive opinion on them, but it assigned the Centres for the Development of the Planning regions to proceed pursuant to the remarks provided to the Ministry of Local Self-Government by: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment and Area Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Agriculture and the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Later, the Ministry of Local Self-Government sent the documents, along with the remarks, to the Development Centres.

Due to these reasons, a new team was created by the Development Centre with the responsibility of revising, updating, completing and harmonising it with the national legislation and all the relevant documents, in accordance with the comments of the responsible ministries. The team's aim was to intervene in the following matters:

- The Programme to be updated in the direction of clearly defining the competencies of the local and central government, or in other words reformulating the predicted objectives, measures and activities which are legally under the responsibility of the central government, while in the programme they are depicted as potential products for implementation on regional level;
  - To specify and clarify the compliance of the Programme with the strategic documents;
  - To eliminate the legal insufficiencies and inconsistencies;
  - To specify the origin / sources of the data;
  - To renew and update the statistical data;
  - To eliminate the unnecessary analyses and to complete the missing data;
  - To make a strategic assessment on the environment, with a view to timely acknowledgement of the negative effects on the environment and people's health and to take appropriate specific measures;
  - Formulation of the final version of the Development Programme.

## **2. Existing Programmes and Projects**

The Programme for the Development of the Southwest planning region is based on the Law which regulates the connection of this programme with the application of an appropriate methodology. In this manner the Programme bears legislative gravity. The basis of the project therefore constitutes:

- The Law on Equal Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia.

The source document supported by part of the legislation, and which represented the basis for the preparation of the Programme for the Development of the Southwest planning region is:

- Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia.

Of the strategic documents with which this Programme is harmonised and which have been used in the preparation of this Programme as existing programmes and projects are:

- Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia adopted in 2004.
- Spatial Plan of the Ohrid – Prespa Region adopted in 2010;
- Draft-Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Macedonia of 2009;
- The National Strategy for Energy Development for the period until 2030;
- The Strategy for Renewable Sources of Energy;
- The Strategy for Energy Efficiency;
- The National Strategy for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises;
- The Strategy for Demographic Development of the Republic of Macedonia 2008-2015;
- The National Employment Strategy;
- The 2008-2011 National Strategy for Organic Agriculture
- The National Transport Strategy
- National Strategy for Information Society Development
- The National Strategy for the Development of Electronic Communication with Information Technologies

Furthermore, the following are also existing projects, documents and laws that were used in the preparation of the Programme:

- Study for local economic development of the Municipality of Ohrid - 2000
- Strategy for local economic development of the Municipality of Ohrid - 2007
- Strategy for local economic development of the Municipality of Struga - 2008
- The Strategies of all the municipalities of the region
- Social Action Plans, Programme for Construction of Small Hydroelectric Power Plants
- Programme for improvement of the competitiveness of the Macedonian products
- Programme for Development of Entrepreneurship
- The Law on Public Roads
- The Law on Cultural Heritage
- Law on Tourism
- National and local strategies for Tourism Development

The Programme also is dependant upon the relevant literature related to this issue and to official statistics and other development indicators.

### **3. Natural Characteristics**

The Southwest planning region constitutes a special entity which is abundant with a number of natural and social values. These represent significant resources. Their mutual effect is very important for development, but separately they represent an important resource for development. In this sense, the Programme encompasses the characteristics of: the geographic

setting, the landscapes, the climate, the bodies of water, the soils and the bio-geographical values.

### **3.1 Geographic Setting**

The territory of the Southwest planning region covers an area of 3,340 km<sup>2</sup> and the following municipalities fall with it: Vevchani, Vraneshtica, Debar, Debrca, Drugovo, Zajas, Oslomej, Ohrid, Kichevo, Makedonski Brod, Plasnica, Struga and Centar Zhupa. There are total of 286 settlements in the 13 mentioned municipalities.

One of the advantages of the region is the fact that it borders on one side with Albania, therefore international exchange may be carried out through this region. The following border crossing points play a role in the function of international economic exchange: Blato, Kjafasan and Sveti Naum. These border crossing points, in addition to exchange of goods, also allow fluctuation of the tourists and labour force, therefore enabling more dynamic development of the region.

The airport "Saint Paul" in Ohrid plays a similar function in an extraterritorial form.

### **3.2 Landscape**

The landscape of the Southwest planning region is mountainous and it is intertwined with many basins. Many high mountains are prevalent with a height of over 2,000 m above sea level. The early mountain range Jablanica with Crn Kamen (2,257 m) and Radik (2,083 m) lies in the western part of the region, toward the border to Albania. On the northern side, the region is enclosed by the Deshat Mountain with the peak Krichin (2,241 m). Stogovo Mountain with the peak Bijak Dorak (2,268 m) and Babin Srt (2,241 m), and Bistra with the peaks Medenica (2,163 m) and Kjurkov Dol (2,011 m), Bukovikj Mountain with the pass Strazha (1,212 m), Chelojca Mountain with the peak Dobra Voda (2,061 m) and Suva Gora (1,857 m) and Tabahon (1,748 m). On the eastern side, the region is encircled by the Karadjica Mountain and the peak Milenkov Kamen (2,217 m) and Bel Kamen (2,074 m), then Busheva Mountain with the peak Musica (1,788 m), Ilina Mountain with the peak Liska (1,908 m), Plakjenska Mountain with the peak Slavev Plakje (1,999 m) and Galichica with the peak Istok (1,663 m) and the peak Magaro (2,254 m).

Stogovo with the peak Bijak Dorok (2,268 m) and Karaorman with the peaks Babin Srt (2,241 m) and Orli Vrv (1,794 m) are located between the mountains Bistra and Jablanica.

The Ohrid-Struga basin, which is located between the mountains Jablanica and Galichica, is the largest in the region and in part it is occupied by Lake Ohrid, and consists of the Ohrid and Struga Fields. North of this basin is Debrca, which is separated by the Botun passage. The mountainous pass, Preseka (1,082 m) separates the Kichevo basin which is connected to the Porechie basin area.<sup>1</sup>

Along the valley of the Drim River, the Ohrid – Struga Basin connects with the Zhupa and Debar Basins.

Of the interesting and attractive forms in this region, special attention deserves the postvolcanic formation Duvalo located near the village of Kosel, in the immediate vicinity of Ohrid.

The region is characteristic by the extraordinary accessibility to caves considering the limestone composition of the mountains. Special mention needs to be made of the following:

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<sup>1</sup> N. Marinoski, Tourist geography, FTU, Ohrid (faculty of tourism and hospitality), 2001

Alilica in the valley of river Tresonechka, Jaorec in Debrca, Kalin Dupka in the vicinity of Lazaropole, Cave Simka in the delta of the river Hadjina in Radika, Samoska Dupka on Galichica Mountain, the Vevchani Springs in Vevchani, the Slatino Springs, Peshna, the Slatina Cave and Orle in Porechie.

### 3.3 Climate

The landscape characteristics, the vicinity of the Adriatic Sea and the cyclonic and anticyclone centres in Europe, as well as the lake aquatorium are all factors that directly contribute to the climate of this region. The region is characteristic by its varying climatic conditions. In this region we can distinguish continental climatic complex, complexes with typical mountainous climatic characteristics and complexes with changing Mediterranean moderate – conditional characteristics. The Mediterranean influence is especially prevalent in the Ohrid and Struga Basin, and certain influence can also be distinguished along the valley of the Black Drim River. The continental climatic characteristics are present in the Porchie and Kichevo region and the Debrca Basin, while mountainous climate with type characteristics is prevalent in heights above 1000 m.

The air temperatures, at measuring stations, are provided in the following table:

*Average annual and monthly air temperatures*

Measuring station	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Ann.
Debar	0.7	3.0	6.3	11.0	15.8	19.6	22.2	22.0	18.0	12.6	7.5	2.7	11.8
Ohrid	1.7	3.1	5.6	9.8	14.4	18.4	20.8	20.7	16.9	11.8	7.7	3.8	11.2
Kichevo	-0.1	2.4	5.8	10.3	14.9	18.6	20.6	20.3	16.4	11.2	6.7	2.1	10.8
M. Brod	0.4	2.7	5.7	10.1	14.8	18.1	20.2	20.0	16.2	11.1	6.8	2.1	10.7
Lazarapole	-2.3	-1.3	1.2	5.3	10.2	13.7	15.9	15.7	12.1	7.6	3.7	-0.1	6.8

Source: A. Lazarevski, the Climate in Macedonia, Kultura, Skopje, 1993

The table shows that the Ohrid region has the mildest temperatures, while the lowest temperatures were recorded by the measuring station in Lazaropole, as a representative of the mountainous climate.

The Southwest planning region belongs to the group of areas with highest quantities of rainfall in the Republic of Macedonia which constitutes a special value which reflects most of the activities in this area.

The following table provides the average quantities of monthly and annual rainfalls expressed in mm.

*Average annual and monthly rainfall quantities*

Measuring station	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Ann.
Debar	87.6	83.2	73.8	73.2	73.8	41.6	34.7	37.4	60.7	79.7	117.9	107.6	872.2
Ohrid	76.4	72.6	59.8	50.3	63.7	36.4	23.2	21.1	47.4	71.6	98.4	78.9	708.3
Kichevo	71.6	73.2	73.2	55.7	68.1	46.1	36.2	37.2	48.7	76.1	107.1	65.6	786.7
M. Brod	72.9	71.6	65.4	54.1	74.5	48.8	28.8	34.6	48.2	70.7	88.6	77.2	735.1
Lazarapole	103.7	103.3	93.1	84.4	90.9	57.6	41.9	45.1	73.3	104.2	140.4	124.2	1059.0

Source: Ibid.

From the table, it can be seen that the Ohrid region has the smallest rainfall quantity, especially during the summer period of the year, which positively reflects on tourism. On the opposite end of the scale, the largest amounts of rainfall can be noted in the high mountainous regions. This is of significance both for the grass vegetation of the pastures and for the winter recreational and sporting activities.

It can be said that the region is fairly sunny and that cloud cover is weak, which is depicted in the following table:

*Insolation*

Measuring station	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Ann.
Debar	85	90	124	154	213	250	313	288	233	181	109	99	2129
Ohrid	80	101	160	174	240	279	308	288	217	171	118	99	2233
Kichevo	88	108	131	185	190	276	300	288	219	160	100	84	2064
Lazarapole	101	104	138	158	198	229	292	280	222	175	109	92	2098

Source: Ibid.

From the table, it can be concluded that the most number of solar irradiance hours and lack of cloud cover is recorded in the Ohrid-Struga Basin.

The region is characteristic for the great amount of windiness which influences the quality of life in the region. However, this phenomenon can be acknowledged in the function of installing sustainable sources of energy. The reasons for the windiness are due the differences in air pressure occurring between the mountainous and basin areas.

Well known winds occur from the north and the west in the Debar Basin and Zhupa, in the Porechje region and the Kichevo region, as well as the Debrca basin. Local winds occur in the Ohrid Basin with duration of a whole day and night. Amongst them, better known winds are Strmec, Veternik, Belichki, the Sever and the Gorni.

### 3.4 Hydrographical Characteristics

The quantity of rainfalls occurring in the region, in ample amounts, represents a factor for the significantly developed hydrography. The wealth of water resources represents a basis for water supply to the households, for irrigation of the agricultural fields, production of electrical power, industrial production and tourist activities.

Lake Ohrid has a dominant position in the region. It is one of the oldest lakes in the work. Its area is 348.8 km<sup>2</sup> of which 229.9 m<sup>2</sup> is on the Macedonian side. Its deepest point is 286 m, while its average depth is 144.8 m. The lake's volume of water is 54.280 km<sup>3</sup>, which means that it is the largest aquatorial objects and water potential, as well as a reservoir of warmth. The water temperature is relatively high. The average annual temperature is 13.6 C°. The average monthly temperatures during the winter period of the year span from 6.3 C° to 7 C°. The lake does not freeze which is a favourable circumstance for the use of the water. During the four month summer period in the year the average monthly water temperatures are above 18 C°, which designates the duration of the season for swimming activities. The transparency of the water is among the greatest values in the world with 21.5 m visibility. The chemical composition of the water and its sweet character (128/l dissolved salts) is favourable for water



supply, which indicates that it is the largest accumulation for this purpose in Ohrid. Via the Black Drim River it constitutes the main water supply to the lakes Globochica and Debar.<sup>2</sup>

Lake Debar has a surface area of 13.2 km<sup>2</sup>, while Lake Globoshica's area is 2.7 km<sup>2</sup>. These lakes, in addition to the fact they serve for production of electrical energy, also provide the opportunity for fishing and caged fish production, water supply and tourist activities.

Lake Slatino, with the sole purpose of water supply, offers extraordinary opportunities for fishing and fish farming, but also tourist activities. Lake Trebenishko, the only naturally dammed gorge lake in the Republic of Macedonia, has the same characteristics.

The region also has glacial lakes. These are Lake Vevchani, Podgorec and the Labunishta lakes on Jablanica and the Upper and Lower Lake, the Black Lake and Lake Marusha on Stogovo. These lakes offer opportunities for tourist recreational purposes. Some of them, like Lake Podgorec for instance, are used for water supply and irrigation. But, the rarity of these types of formations should be protected in the best possible manner.

The watershed of the Crni Drim River together with the Lake Ohrid watershed region, within this area is (4,198 km<sup>2</sup>)<sup>3</sup>, while the immediate watershed of this river to the border with Albania is 1,567 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a regulated riverbed and coasts along the length of the City of Struga and this is considered a special attraction. Its water and the water from Belichka and Vevchani rivers and the influent river Lanunishka are appropriate for water supply and irrigation.

The River Sateska which used to be an influent of the Black Drim River has been redirected to flow into Lake Ohrid. This issue is a topic of discussion among experts and scientist in regards to the pollution of Lake Ohrid. There are proposals the old riverbed to be restored. However, this can threaten the hydrological stability of Lake Ohrid and if the erosional matter is not restored it can be a factor of accelerated atrophy of Lake Globochica. That is why it needs to be repaired with sand traps and accumulations.

There are significant water springs in this watershed region, such as the springs at St. Naum and Biljanini Izvori. The water capacity is 6.5-11 m<sup>3</sup>/sec, or rather 30-120l/sec. Other important springs are the Belichka River spring, the Vevchani and Labunishta Springs.<sup>4</sup>

The Radika River is one of the cleanest rivers in the Southwest Planning region, and its water feeds Lake Debar.

River Treska is a significant resource for water supply, irrigation and construction of fish farms. It is this river, with its spring section at Izvor, through the flow in the region is characterised with the largest abundance of fish farms.

### **3.5 Biogeographical Characteristics**

The Southwest planning region is characteristic by the diverse abundance of plant and animal species.

According to the last forest inventory, the area covered under forest in the region is 183,105 ha. The forests are mainly composed of deciduous trees, distributed according to stands. That is the stand of oak forests, often with contents of chestnut trees and beech trees which is the

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<sup>2</sup> N.Marinkoski. Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> M. Serafimovski, energy importance of Lake Ohrid in terms of natural and regulatory oscillations on the level, symposium on the problems for regulating Lake Ohrid, MANU, Skopje, 1974.

<sup>4</sup> M.authors ,Ohrid, Book I, I. N. I. Skopje 1985

most prevalent. Conifer forests are represented with 7.74% on the total forest surface area. This structure is relatively unfavourable, but it does constitute a significant potential for the wood processing industry.<sup>5</sup>

Grasslands in the form of pastures and meadows take up a surface area of 60,136 ha and it constitutes a basis for the development of cattle husbandry.<sup>6</sup>

Swamp plants appear in the Ohrid-Struga Basin and the marsh Belchishko Blato. In addition to the significance for tourism, they constitute part of the stability of the separate eco-systems. The animal wildlife is represented by various types of large and small game, poultry and fish. They constitute the basis for the hunting and fishing activities.

## **4. Demographic Development**

The development of the population in the Southwest planning region should be monitored through the quantity and dynamics of the population, the density of the population and the concentration of the population, the urban population and the level of urbanisation the birth and death rates and natural growth, internal and external migrations and its structure according to gender, age and education. For the region, it can be said that it has specific demographic characteristics that need to be taken into account as an implication over its future development.

### **4.1 Scope and dynamics of the population**

The scope and dynamics of the Southwest planning region has been strategically monitored from 1994 to 2006, wherefore the censuses of 1994 and 2002 have been taken into consideration, as well as the projections for the populations for 2006. A general characteristic is that growth of the population was registered during this period. The population growth in this region is in compliance of the growth of the Republic of Macedonia. The number of inhabitants in 1994 in this region was 212,856 citizens, while in 2002 that number was 221,546 citizens, which means an average annual growth of the population of 0.49 %, while the growth in the Republic of Macedonia is 0.48 %.<sup>7</sup>

The absolute population growth during the period between the census of 1994 and the census of 2002 is 8,946 inhabitants or by approximately 4% growth, or almost identical to the level of the Republic of Macedonia.

### **4.2 Density of the population and concentration**

The assessment for 2006 is that the number of citizens in the Republic of Macedonia would be 2,041,941, while that number for the region would be 222,141 citizens, hence sustaining the registered figures at the 1994 censuses. According to the demographic indicators of 2006, the average density of the population in the Republic of Macedonia is 81.9 citizens per km<sup>2</sup>, while in the Southwest Region that figure is 66.6 per km<sup>2</sup>. The Skopje Planning region has the highest density levels with 325.7, while the lowest density with 38.2 citizens per kilometre was registered in the Vardar Planning region. This means the Southwest planning region can be classified as medium populated region. However, in terms of displacement of the

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<sup>5</sup> Forestry 2008. Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje 2009

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Census of the population, households and apartments in R. Macedonia, 2002, State statistical office, Skopje, 2005.

population within the Southwest planning region, the inter-municipality difference and the difference in settlements is characteristic. 67.11% of the total population of the region lives in three municipalities – Struga, Ohrid and Kichevo.

### ***Vital characteristics of the population***

The vital characteristics of the population of the Southwest planning region can be seen from the rates of birth, mortality and natural growth.

During the period between the two census years, the natural growth rate in the Southwest planning region had waned in relation to the rates registered in the Republic of Macedonia. Hence, in the Republic of Macedonia, the rate of natural growth in 1994 was 8.1 per mille, while in the Southwest planning region it was slightly higher at 10 per mille. In 2006, the natural growth of the Republic of Macedonia was assessed at 1.9 per mille, while the figure for the Southwest planning region was 1.5 per mille.<sup>8</sup>

The analysis of the birth rate shows that in relation to the birth rate of the Republic of Macedonia this region has similar, high birth rate characteristics. The birth rate of the Southwest planning region is 10.25 per mille, while the nation average is 11.1 per mille. The highest number of live births is in the Skopje Planning region – 12.6 per thousand citizens, while the smallest is in the Northeast Planning region - 9.3. A special characteristic of the Southwest planning region is that there is a big difference between the birth rate among the municipalities.

In relation to the mortality, it can be said that the death rate in the Republic of Macedonia has increased from 8 per mille in 1999, to 9.1 per mille in 2006. In the Southwest planning region it is somewhere in the framework of 8 – 8.7, which means that the rate is within the average death rate at the national level. The rate of deceased infants is under the level of the Republic of Macedonia. In 1994 it was 23.9 per mille, while in the region it is 20.4 per mille.

The designs for 2006 at the level of the Republic of Macedonia are 11.5 per mille, while in the Southwest planning region 7.9 per mille.

This means the Southwest planning region has been subject to a noticeable reduction of the death rate of infants. At the national level, the highest rate of deceased infants is in the Skopje Planning region with 15.3 per mille, while the lowest rate is in the Northeast planning region – 6.5 per mille.

It is characteristic that the reduction of the rata of total fertility, which in 1994 in the Republic of Macedonia was 2.1 per mille, while in the Southwest planning region 2.3 per mille. The projections for 2006 at the level of the Republic of Macedonia is 1.42 per mille, while in the Southwest planning region it is 1.3 per mille. This means that there is no simple reproduction of the population in terms of renewal of the population.

The average age of the population in the Republic of Macedonia in 2006 is 36 years, while in the Southwest planning region it is 35 years of age. The most mature population, with 39 years of age, is in the Pelagonija planning region, while the youngest average is the population of the Polog planning region. In the Southwest Planning region, just as it is the case in the Polog and the Northeast planning region as a result of the increased birth rate, the

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<sup>8</sup> Regions in R. Macedonia 2007, State statistical office, Skopje, 2008

children between the ages of 0 and 14 have a share of more than 20% in the total population, while the share of the older population is evident in the Pelagonija planning region – with 15.2%.

The projection of the life expectancy show little digressions. The average life expectancy of the population in the Republic of Macedonia in 1995 was 72,1 years, while in the Southwest planning region it is 72,6 years. In 2005, the life expectancy while giving birth was 73.4 per mille in Macedonia, while the same figure is 73.9 for the region, thus meaning longer life expectancy in the Southwest planning region by 0.5 per mille. This means that a certain increase in the life expected has been noted in this regional unit in relation to the Macedonian average.

### **4.3 The city population and urbanisation level**

According to the 2002 census, the participation of the city population in the Republic of Macedonia in the total population is 56.7%, while the highest concentration is in Skopje 20.5%. In the Southwest planning region, this figure is 36.1 percent. The region consists of 13 municipalities of which 8 have their administrative centres in villages, while the total number of settlements is 286. This means that the region falls within the group of regions with a lower participation of city inhabitants in the total number of citizens. The differentiation of the rural settlements according to the number of citizens is characteristic. Hence we have rural settlements (located above all in the Southwest planning region) with noticeable population and settlements whose numbers are decreasing noticeably. In this context, there is a need to take import programme activities.

### **4.4 Internal and external migrations**

The analysis of the total mobility of the population shows that the majority of the inhabitants is native to the region. This means that according to the 2002 census, the participation of the people who live in the same location continually from the birth is 69.2% of the population. This is larger percentage share compared to the national average level (65.8%). There are also internal and external migrations, but with differing characteristics.<sup>9</sup>

The analysis of **internal migration** in the Southwest planning region shows that there are no apparent inter-municipality movements of the population. The scope of participation of migration from other municipalities is between is from 64.9 to 67.7%. The participation of movement of the population from one place to another within the municipality is within the scope of 25.1% to 22.3%.<sup>10</sup> This means that there is relative weak internal movement. The reason needs to be sought in the decreased migration potential which is based on the transitional processes and the restructured economy and especially the increased emigration movements from rural settlements to abroad.

The indicators on municipality level show that the absolute volume and relative participation of the inter-municipality migrations is larger in the larger municipalities, i.e. the municipality centres.

**External** migrations are characteristic for their emigration processes, which are currently dominant. On the basis of the analysis of the emigration structure on national level, it can be concluded that the Pelagonija planning region has largest percentage of participation in the

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

emigration process to other countries with 22.5%, followed by the Southwest planning region with 14.1%.

According to the data provided in the strategy of equal regional development of the Republic of Macedonia there is an indication that the Southwest planning region is characterised by fairly sizeable intensity of emigration to other countries. These kinds of situations directly and indirectly have an effect on the development of the population. They reflect on the total population in the region, decrease the reproduction bases and accelerate the process of demographic aging. It is of special concern that the emigration from the municipalities which are characterised by apparent aging of the population and low reproduction rate. Therefore, it is necessary to establish programmed activities in the rural depopulating settlements and the smaller municipalities.

#### **4.5 The population according to gender and age**

According to the data of the official statistics, the number of male in relation to female population, in Southwest Planning region, shows a faintly larger share (50.1 %) of the total number of people. Its increase is also insignificant; hence the programmed activities one can rely on both populations.

**The age structure** of the population in the Southwest planning region is characteristic for the fact that for a long period of time 1994 to 2006, is on the threshold of old age.

There are evident differences in the age structure from municipality to municipality. Centar Zhupa and Plasnica have the youngest average population. They are at a stadium of demographic maturity. The remaining municipalities are characterised by noticeable old age. The following municipalities are the threshold of demographic old age: Kichevo, Oslomej, Struga, Debar and Zajas. Ohrid and Vevchani also have an average older population. They are in a stadium of demographic old age. The municipalities of Drugovo and Makedonski Brod are in the stadium of deep demographic old age, while Vraneshtica and Debarca are in a stadium of deepest demographic old age. This situation has worrying characteristics not only due to the total age of the population, but also due to the inequality in terms of the municipalities and the settlements.

**The co efficiency of old age dependency of the population is important in terms of the burden on the able bodied working contingent.** In this sense, the size of the potential labour force and the people who are no longer fit for work should be taken into account. The burden shows the ratio of the total age dependency, the age dependency on the youth and the age dependency on the old people.

The ratio of the total age dependency provides the burden of the population on the able bodied people with the contingency of youth and old people. On national level this has reduced from 52.0 in 1994 and 47.9 in 2002. The Southwest planning region has significant higher values. In 1994 the co efficiency was 60.1 while in 2002 it was 51.9.<sup>11</sup>

The age dependency on the youth in the Southwest planning region is among the highest in the regional sense and it follows only the Polog Planning region (32,9) and the Northeast Planning region (30,8). This ratio is 2.5

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

The ratio of the age dependency on old people in the region is among the lowest compared to the other regions. It is 15.3, while the Polog Planning region is the only region which has a lower value of 12.1.<sup>12</sup>

#### **4.6. Educational Structure of the Population**

The educational structure of the population of the Southwest planning region shows tendencies similar to that on national level. During the period from 1994 to 2002, the declining trend of the rate of illiteracy was sustained, but its intensity is imperceptible. The changes in the structure of the population, according to schooling, is moving from reduction of participation of people with primary, to increase of people with secondary and higher education. Nevertheless, the population with primary education or lower is still predominant.

The share of people 15 years of age or older with primary education during the last census year was 60.8%. That is above the average of participation of such population on national level (53,2%), while the Polog planning region has the highest figures in relation to the other regions. The share of the population with secondary education is 30.7% and is under the level of the share of such population in the Republic of Macedonia (36.9). In terms of the remaining regions it has the highest level, with the exception of the Polog Planning region.

The share of the population in higher education is 8.6%. In this sense the Southwest planning region is under the level of the share of such population in the educational structure in the Macedonia (10%).<sup>13</sup>

The existing situation in terms of literacy and educational structure of the population has similar characteristics as on national level. It is not a satisfying figure, while the majority of municipalities do not dispose of qualified human resources necessary for a more dynamic social – economic development. Such situation can be a serious restricting factor in overcoming the disproportions in the development in the Southwest planning region, but also in other regional relations.

### **5. Economic characteristics**

The economic characteristics of the Southwest Planning region, pursuant to the Strategy for Equal Development of the Republic of Macedonia, should be acknowledged via indicators contained in: gross domestic product per capita, production in the non-finance sector, import and export, jobs, labour productivity, cost of the labour force per production unit, the significance of small and medium sized enterprises in production and creation of new jobs and the sectoral structure.

#### **5.1 Gross Domestic Product**

The Gross Domestic Product per capita shows the huge inequality on national level. In this respect, the position of the Southwest planning region is fairly modest. According the data provided in 2009, the GDP per capita in 2007 in this region was 110,771 denars according to the purchasing power parity. The Skopje planning region with 289,622 denars is way in front of the Southwest planning region. If one takes into amount that the national average is 173,385 denars, the huge disproportion can clearly be seen. The GDP in Southwest planning

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

region has an index of 63.9 under the average in the Republic of Macedonia, while the Skopje Planning region has an index 167 under this average. The Skopje planning region's GDP is 2.61 times higher from this region. The participation of the Southwest planning region in the creation of the GDP of the Republic of Macedonia is 6.9%, while the Skopje planning region has a share of 48.5%.<sup>14</sup>

Given the above, it is safe to conclude that the Southwest planning region trails the Skopje planning region by a long stretch and it has a relatively modest participation in the creation of the GDP in the Republic of Macedonia

## **5.2 Production in the non-financial sector**

Considering the fact that the non-financial sector is dominant in the creation of the overall added value, it represents one of the primary indicators for the economic development in the region and is a generator of the development. The analysis of this sector shows that the Skopje planning region takes the dominant position in this sector. It participates with 2/3 of the overall added value, indicating to the monocentric model of development, but not in the context of the established policy of polycentricism. The share of the Southwest planning region in the overall added value is 7.26%, while the Northeast Planning region has the lowest share with 4.23%.<sup>15</sup>

Contrary to the expectations for improvement of the participation of the Southwest planning region in this structure, this would lead to more equal development, in 2006 the participation level of this region in the overall added value on national level started to decline again. Namely, growth is the lowest in this region and it only 3%, compared to the growth of the share of the Southeast planning region of 117%.<sup>16</sup>

Such an enormous fall of production is due to the fact that a large portion of the large and medium sized enterprises were also located in the Southwest planning region. This created a higher productivity and more dynamic development of the past. But, during the restructure of the economy, the majority, mostly large and medium sized enterprises stopped working due to various reasons, causing a drop in the growth, and reduction in the share of the Southwest planning region in the overall production in the non-financial sector.

This means that steps need to be taken in order to promote the increase of production. The capacities that are in a state of adjournment represent significant potential for production. Moreover, measures should be taken in order to enable the construction of plants for small and medium sized businesses. The experiences in the creation of the planning activities can be used as examples especially of the regions where production by small businesses flourishes which contribute to the high growth rates and fast development.

## **5.3 Import and export**

The foreign trade exchange is in direct dependency of the volume and dynamics of production in the non-financial sector. This means that in this respect, the Southwest planning region is registering the lowest performance together with the Northeast Planning region. In 2006, the

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<sup>14</sup> Gross domestic product and investments in basic means per regions 2000-2006. Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2009.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

Southwest planning region export was valued at approximately US \$71 million, while import was approximately US \$81 million. Export from the Northeast Planning region was US \$69 million, while import was US \$114 million. The value of export in the Skopje Planning region was US \$1,088, while the value of imports was worth US \$2,506<sup>17</sup>. This indicates that the Southwest planning region is achieving a very low dynamic both in terms of export and import.

Intensification of the development should be sought in the support of the export oriented production due to the low absorption power of the Macedonian market.

#### **5.4 Employment**

The fall of production in the Southwest planning region caused a rapid decline in the employment rate in the non-financial sector. This region is known by the biggest loss of working places. The loss of working places is -3% in 2006 in relation to 2003. This, in relation to the Skopje planning region, where the employment (in this period) had increased for 13%, represents a remarkable disproportion.

From the overall population in the Southwest planning region (222 385), in 2002 the number of the active population was 68 789. 29 200 persons of them are registered as unemployed, showing that the unemployment rate is 42.4 percents.

This negative conjuncture is due to the uncompleted restructuring or closing of the big and medium sized enterprises that requires undertaking simulative measures for vitalization of the business capacities.

#### **5.5 Labour productivity**

The labour productivity monitors the participation in the total added value and the participation in the total employment cases in R. of Macedonia. As opposed from the Skopje planning region which due to its high participation in the total added value (67%) and the relatively lower participation in the total amount of employment (47%), the period from 2003-2006 year can be marked with increase of labour productivity of 12% and the average realized added value per employee of 712 000 denars in 2006. The Southwest planning region marks the lowest values, i.e. the value per employee is 445 731 denars. The low performances in view of the production are the reason for the growth of the labour productivity to amount 6% in 2006.

The gross salaries per employee in the Southwest planning region are between the lowest in relation to the other regions as consequence to the low labour productivity.

#### **5.6 Labour expenses per unit of product**

The analysis of the dynamics of the labour expenses per unit of product on the level of Republic of Macedonia shows that the Southwest planning region is in unfavourable position. A dynamic growth of the non-financial sector has been marked in the period of 2003-2006 in several planning regions. They had been accompanied with significant improvement of the competitiveness, measured via the labour expenses per unit of product.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.



In relation to these movements regarding the majority of the remaining of the planning regions, the Southwest planning region has the lowest competition. The labour expenses per unit of product have high values in all the years subjected to analyse, from 2003 to 2006. In 2004 and 2005 their value had been above 0.8 and in 2006 above 0.7 per unit of product<sup>18</sup>. With this, the Southwest part along with the Pelagonija planning region is put on the position with the highest level of competition.

These conditions point out the necessity of undertaking measures for significant change of conditions.

### **5.7 The significance of the small and medium sized enterprises in production and realization of working places**

The restructuring of the business sector in Republic of Macedonia in the transition period, along with the other characteristics had been recognizable by the development of the small enterprises. The intense growth in the past several years enabled the small enterprises to undertake the role of the biggest manufacturers in the non-financial sector of Republic of Macedonia.

In 2006, the small enterprises have been the biggest employer in the Southwest planning region. The participation of the small and medium sized enterprises in the production and the employment in the non-financial sector amounts 79% and it takes one of the highest places. It is mentionable that the employment in the small enterprises in Southwest region is remarkable and it goes above 60%. This states that it is necessary to intensify the opening and functioning of the small sized enterprises.

### **5.8 Sector structure**

The sector structure shows that the industry dominates in the Southwest planning region. The participation in the industry and energy in the gross added value amounts 28.2%, then follow the realizations in the trade, catering industry and traffic, the financial activities and real-estate related activities. In the Southwest planning region, the building industry participates only with 4.5% in the gross added value of the region.<sup>19</sup>

According to that, the industry and the building industry in the Southwest planning region should be stimulated through the current capacities as well as through new investments by using the current production resources, natural treasures and labour. A general characteristic of the agricultural sector is that it is being realized in the households and that there are less and less present agricultural manufacturers, organized in enterprises and associations. The Southwest planning region is characterized with big fragmentation of the agricultural areas, which is not suitable for more intensified development. However, one can state that still, there are possibilities for more intensified development of stockbreeding.

In great part, in this region there exists extensive agriculture such as in the Porechie region which opens a possibility for conversion into organic production. In this view, the existence of meadows and pastures in this region can be a foundation for intensified stockbreeding that

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

will unify the traditional approaches with the contemporary demands for production of healthy food.

## **6. Labour market**

The labour market, in accordance with the regional development strategy of Republic of Macedonia includes the rate of activity, employment and unemployment.

### **6.1 Activity**

According to the census from 2002, the participation of the labour in the population with working ability presents respectively low value. The analysis enables us to conclude that in the period between the two census years the rate of activity has decreased. It amounts 42.4% which is one of the lowest rates in relation to the remaining of the planning regions in Macedonia. The lowest rate is marked in the Polog region with 33.1%.

In the census year of 2002, the Southwest planning region marks the lowest rate of activity for persons without education, 2.9%. The lowest rate of 9.5% has been marked in this region in view of the participation of persons with incomplete elementary education. Exceptionally higher participation of activity has been marked with the persons with completed elementary education (31.6%), but this value is below the average level in Macedonia. The rate of activity with the persons with secondary education amounts 65% which is in the frames of the middle value of Republic of Macedonia (65.8%). The rate of persons with higher education amounts 74.8%, with high education 84.1% and with master degree and doctorate degree 80.9%<sup>20</sup>. It is obvious that the activity is in direct relation with the education level.

This points out to the need of subsidizing the persons to acquire higher education, in direction towards improving the quality of the labour. This stance is grounded not only to the stated data, but also to the strategic determinations for levelled development in the level of the state. This refers specially to the female population in accordance with the facts that with the women with lower education the activity is lower in relation to the men with the same education. Opposed to that, the activity rate is higher with women with higher education than it is with men on the same level of education.

The activity in the Southwest region, as well as in the frames of Macedonia is depending on the gender structure. The activity rate with the male population is 62% and with the female is 35%, thus creating a gender gap of 27% in favour of the male population, and this is above the level of the state.

According to the age of the groups on the labour market, the Southwest planning region moves on the level of the country. The highest activity rate of 62% presents a population aged 25-49.

The activity rate is lowest with the population aged 15-24, which is in accordance with the continued schooling system, or establishing irregular working relation<sup>21</sup>.

### **6.2 Employment**

The employment follows the remaining of the economic movements. The Southwest planning region is exceptional by its lowest rate in relation to all other planning regions. The

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<sup>20</sup> Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2007.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

employment rate is 27.7% and it is significantly lower than the average employment in Macedonia amounting 33.5%.

Such conditions in the Southwest planning region should be explained with the current conjunctures in the business sector as well as with the existence of unrecorded employment. However, one should state that a disproportion has been recorded in the rate of employment between the Southwest planning region and other planning regions, i.e. the country in general. This requires special treatment of this region in view of inciting employment.

The analysis, in view of the employment by gender shows a big difference between male and female population. The employment of the male population amounts around 37% and female around 19%. This means that the female population significantly stays behind the male population. Hence, we can state that it is necessary to have this structure in mind in the planning activities, because the gender gap, in this view, in the Polog region, is mostly expressed in regional sense of the labour market.

In view of the employment, according to the age structure, the contingent aged 25-49 represents the majority in the Southwest planning region; the contingent aged 50-64 is second by ranking and the youngest contingent from 15 to 24 remains with most modest employment rate. The Southwest planning region realizes the lowest employment rate in the Polog region from all age contingents. In direction of improving the conditions one needs to undertake measures for inciting the employment of all contingents.

The employment by sectors shows that in the Southwest planning region the employment in the services sector predominates. The employment in this sector participates with 50%. The participation of the employment in the industry amounts around 40%, while the employment in the agricultural and other sectors amounts around 5% each.

### **6.3 Unemployment**

The unemployment represents one of the worse societal and economic problems characterizing the Southwest planning region. The total number of active population in this region, in the last census year amounts up to 68 789 citizens. However, the number of unemployed persons is 29 200. The unemployment rate is 42.4% and it is included in the group with highest unemployment rate in relation to other regions. The unemployment rate is higher than the rate on the level of the country (38.2) for 4.2% and in relation to the Skopje planning region (30.4) for 12%, which points out to significant disproportion in the development of this sector.

The tendencies for additional increase of the unemployment in the Southwest planning region are worrying. In relation to 1994 (as year before the census), in 2002 there has been an increase of the unemployment for 63.7%, which is for 36.1% higher in relation to the Skopje planning region, or 12% from the average rate of increase of the unemployment in Macedonia (52.7%).<sup>22</sup>

The unemployment analysis, according to the gender shows that there is bigger unemployment, around 2% with the female population in relation to the male population.

A separate problem for the Southwest planning region represents the fact which according to the educational structure of the population, the participation of persons with low education

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

(60.8%) is extremely high. This leads us to conclude that the quality of the labour represents serious limiting factor for dimensioning the economic development and improving the employment. This includes the fact that the unemployment should be surpassed parallel with the additional training of the unemployed persons and to enable education in the secondary and higher education levels.

## **7. Social development**

The methodological approach to the social development includes the characteristics of the households, living conditions and housing, pension insurance, health insurance and health protection and social and child protection.

### **7.1 Households and families**

The households and the families are basic cell not only for the social, but for the total socio-economic development too. Therefore, it is extremely important to monitor the movements in this social sphere. In the period from 1994 until 2002, the number of households in the Southwest planning region had increased for 12.4%. The number of members in a household is 3.84 and it is above the level of Macedonia that has decreased from the average 3.9 to 3.6 persons. These indicators are in context with the ageing of the population, because one decreases the number of children in a family and the number of divorced marriages is alarming. The number of single households is 4909.<sup>23</sup>

### **7.2 Terms for living and housing**

84 044 apartments have been recorded in the Southwest planning region in the census year of 2002. The increase in relation to the census year of 1994 (67 253) is for 25% with 67 253 registered apartments. This increase is above the level of Macedonia (20.2%) and it represents one of the highest increases in relation to the remaining of the planning regions. What is characteristic is that the tendency of building apartments goes in favour to the region to achieve intensified building.

From the analysis of the apartments in construction in the census year of 2002 one can see that this region, after the Polog region (27.3%) is with the largest participation. The participation of the Southwest planning region amounts 19.8% and it is bigger than the average participation in Macedonia.

These indicators speak about positive directions, hence they should be promoted.<sup>24</sup>

The quality of living can be seen via the participation of the households whose apartments have plumbing installations sewage, electrical energy and central heating. The Southwest planning region in this view participates with 6.4%. With this participation, this planning region is behind the average participation realized in Macedonia amounting 14.6% and especially behind Skopje planning region with participation of 35.4% and rebounds from other planning regions.

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<sup>23</sup> Census of the population, households and apartments in R. Macedonia, 2002, State statistical office, Skopje, 2005.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

This means that it is necessary to introduce dynamics to this part of the living conditions in the Southwest planning region, i.e. to intensify the building of the utility infrastructure.<sup>25</sup>

As regards the abovementioned characteristics in relation to the utility sector, the participation of the households with apartments equipped with kitchen, bathroom and toilets is 86.9% and it is on highest level in relation to the remaining of the planning regions. This means that this is a matter of high living standard towards which, in direction of additional development one should promote the segment of infrastructural establishment and utility tidiness. The elimination of septic tanks and toilets on open space should be considered priority. This way one avoids the position of the lowest participation in relation to the rest of the planning regions of baths and toilets, which is 0.3%. This is remarkably lower than the average participation on the level of the state (0.5%) and of the Skopje planning region (0.7%). These undertakings will go in direction of increasing the participation of equipped apartments with kitchens. In the last census year this was 8.8% and after the Polog planning region (7.3%) it is with the lowest participation in the total number of apartments in the Southwest planning region.<sup>26</sup>

### **7.3 Pension insurance**

There are several factors that influence the pension insurance characteristics in the Southwest planning region. With regard to the unique pension system in Republic of Macedonia, this social development indicator monitors the movements in context of the state in general. However, the high rate of unemployment, as well as the ageing of the population to a level of threshold to old age points out to serious problems in view of supporting the contingent of retired persons.

According to the data from the pension and disability insurance fond, the correlation between the insurees and the retired persons in the Southwest planning region is 1 retired person to 1.3 insurees. This is below the level and the correlation on state level (1.5) and is significantly left behind the Skopje planning region (1.9).

This indication suggests the necessity of undertaking activities in the plan of population politics and decreasing the unemployment by opening working posts and raising the employment in the non-financial sector in order to improve the correlation and to create space for future retirements.

According to the height of the pensions, the Sought-western region is located below the average level in Republic of Macedonia. It is 85.7% of this average. The fall behind is exceptional in relation to the Skopje planning region which is 119% in comparison with the Macedonian average.

### **7.4 Health insurance and health protection**

The analysis of the coverage of health protection shows that the Southwest planning region, in relative sense is left behind, on the state level and on the level of the coverage in other planning regions. Solely the Polog planning region has smaller coverage than the Southwest

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<sup>25</sup> Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2007

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

planning region. The coverage in the Southwest planning region is 89% and in comparison to the Skopje planning region (100%) it stands behind for 11%. This is due to the fast increase of the population, losing working places and poor employment. As a result to these relations emerges the high degree of population, subscribers to health insurance on the basis of the unemployment element. It monitors the relations on state level from this type of insurance. Therefore it is necessary for the employment to be enticed with purpose to avoid insuring the unemployed, by which one would approve the coverage of the health insurance in this planning region.

The analysis of the conditions in the health protection and in that context the availability of these services shows that the Southwest planning region is below the level of the average values in Macedonia. The total number of people to one physician from the primary health protection is 848, which is below the level in Macedonia (713). Analytically speaking, almost by all indicators, services from the primary and ambulance-specialized and consultative health protection, the region is under that level, except in some sectors. The number of female population aged 15-39 to 1 gynaecologist, in the region is 1 465 as it is the average case on state level. However, this number stands behind the Skopje planning region (1 166), which creates space for promoting the participation in this direction of improving the quality and decreasing the number of users of services from one gynaecologist.

The number of people to one physician-general practitioner in the Southwest planning region is 2 057, which is remarkable fall behind in relation to the average level in Macedonia (1 624) and especially in relation to the Skopje planning region (1 348). There is significant stand behind with the dentist health protection. The total number of people to one dentist in this region is 2 057, and on the level of Macedonia it is 1 872 people. Solely with the paediatric health protection of this kind the number of children, from birth to 19 years of age to one physician in the Southwest planning region (3 389) and in Macedonia that number is (3 365) is approximately with same values.<sup>27</sup>

Depending on the abovementioned conditions, the general hospitals are equally allocated in regional point of view in the system for primary health protection. The specialized hospitals have one of the leading positions in their representation in this region in relation to the remaining of the planning regions.

This results in the fact that it is necessary to provide measures for improving quality services for the stated segments where the Southwest planning region has fallen behind, on the level of Macedonia and also on the level of the Skopje planning region (which rebounds on the level of the primary health protection).

## **7.5 Social and child protection**

The economic movements in Macedonia and in the Southwest planning region as well as the high rate of unemployment are the reason – from one part – for the call for increased need for social protection, and from another part for the decrease of power of the business sector to hold the pressure of the social burden. According to the past census, the number of recipients of financial assistance is 38% to a thousand citizens in the Southwest planning region. It is a bit lower than the state level 42.5%, but above the level of the Skopje planning region 30.3%.

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

Similar characteristics have been shown by the participation of households-recipients of financial assistance from the total number of families in the Southwest planning region. With the census it has been determined that the participation is 14.8% which is on the level of Macedonia 14.7% and in relation to the Skopje planning region (11.7%), it is higher.<sup>28</sup>

The high level of recipients of social assistance in the region shows the necessity of creating new working places with purpose to raise the living standard. That way one will decrease the number of families and persons directly receiving social assistance which is in context of the determinations from regional development strategy and guidelines towards developing equality.

Child protection is also a component of the living standard. This refers to the number of children visiting kindergartens and to the number of children users of child benefits. The analysis shows that the number of children visiting kindergartens in the Southwest planning region is constantly decreasing. Hence, from birth to 7 years of age only 6.7% of the children from the Southwest planning region are visiting kindergartens. One should seek the reason in the relatively small number of kindergartens, as well as the smaller engagement of female unemployed persons. Because of this, the majority of children are being taken care in domestic conditions. This is the reason for the female population in certain sense to be inferior on the labour market, due to the everyday engagement around the children.<sup>29</sup>

The number of users of child benefits in the Southwest planning region is 6.5%. The level in the Skopje planning region is lowest (4.2%) and the level in the Eastern planning region is the highest (15.1%). As regards the persons who receive special benefit until 26 years of age, this number in the Southwest planning region is 0.6%.<sup>30</sup>

## **8. Infrastructure**

The inciting of equal development should take into consideration the characteristics of the transport, utility and energy infrastructure. The improving of the infrastructure will enable, all by itself, engagement of new labour in the process of projecting and construction, which will be a basis for developing the remaining activities.

### **8.1 Transport infrastructure**

The transport infrastructure includes the characteristics of the road, air and aquatic traffic.

#### **8.1.1 Road network**

The Southwest planning region is relatively well covered with highways, regional and local roads.

The total length of the highways is 154 km, and having in mind this construction (together with the South-eastern planning region) it belongs in the group of planning regions with the biggest participation in the total highway network in Republic of Macedonia (1 123km)<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> Social and child protection, Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2007

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2007

The length of the regional roads in the Southwest planning region is 471km. According to this indicator, it is a matter of relatively good coverage in relation to the remaining of the planning regions since it is located in the middle group of regions according to their road construction from this ranking.

The road network is relatively well developed also in view of the length of the local roads. The length of these roads is 1 301 km and it can be said that according to this indicator the Southwest planning region has the longest local road network.<sup>32</sup>

The factor providing the relation between the length of the road network and the surface of the region in km<sup>2</sup> for the Southwest planning region is 0.58 and it is in the frames of the level in Macedonia (0.55). This factor is significantly left behind the Skopje planning region (0.92). One can draw a conclusion that it is necessary to achieve the level of construction established in the Skopje planning region.

With regards of the road network quality, this region characterizes with exceptionally bad condition of the roads especially the highroads and regional roads. Majority of the highroads in the Southwest planning region are built 30-40 years ago and they are in exceptionally bad condition since they have been re inadequately maintained and beforehand reconstructed. Such are the sections Straza – Kicevo – Podmolje (M-4) and Ohrid – Bukovo (M-5). The regional road Kicevo – Makedonski Brod is also in bad condition.

The regional road Struga – Debar can be found in extremely bad condition, representing a factor that jeopardizes the safety of the passengers. With a view to the fact that the communication from Boshkov Most to Izvor (connecting Debar to the highroad M-4) has not been completed, this municipality has periphery position in the Southwest planning region. Also the establishment of highroad communication from Makedonski Brod to Skopje is of extreme importance, with which one could introduce interactive and developing connection between these two differently developed regions.

The development of the local roads in the region should be in function of preventing moving out, village vitalization, remigration and immigration as well as developing the tourism, cultivating the forest and the overall economic development.

### **8.1.2 Railway**

The railway as infrastructure in the Southwest planning region has modest characteristics and it is part of the underdevelopment on state level. The total length of the tracks is 27km from a total of 682 kilometres throughout the country.<sup>33</sup>

Such low level of construction establishment in the Southwest planning region is not the only negative point. The factor of density of the construction establishment is 8.56 and it is remarkably left behind the factor on state level (27). The cities Ohrid, Struga, Debar and Makedonski Brod remain uncovered. From this region, only Kicevo is part of this network. Basic problem of the region is the incomplete railway network and the fact that it ends with dead end. Along with other disadvantages, the current railway station can be found in bad condition in view of the technical equipment. This reflects the transport of passengers and goods.

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Ibid



These conditions point out to the need of undertaking measures for full transformation of this sector.

### ***8.1.3 Air traffic***

The air traffic in the Southwest planning region is carried out through the airport St. Paul the Apostle located in Podmolje (municipality of Debarca). With its international character it represents a significant potential in function of an equal development. The expansion of the airport should be in accordance with the movements in the production sectors and in the tourism as leading service sector. It fully covers this space. The only negative surrounding is the bad access to it, in interregional sense which points out to the need of undertaking processes to make improvements in this direction.

### ***8.1.4 Aquatic traffic***

The aquatic traffic in the Southwest planning region is reported as lake traffic on the Ohrid Lake. The current transport is only for passengers in function of tourism. The relations enabling transport are from Ohrid to St. Naum and Hotel Biser – Struga region. It is necessary to build a marina in Struga and to undertake all measures to establish traffic connection with Pogradec, Albania. Thus, enabling transportation of passengers and goods in the frames of the region and on cross-bordering level.

## **8.2 Utility infrastructure**

The utility infrastructure refers to the water supply, draining and purifying waste waters as well as determining locations for safe disposal of solid waste. The characteristics of the utility infrastructure are in direct correlation with the living standard. It dictates the need of such tidiness and represents a parameter for the level of development of the living standard.

### ***8.2.1 Water supply***

The water supply represents basic factor for the living standard of the citizens. It is basic preposition for preventing the moving out and the vitalization of the rural environments. Also, one of the contributions from the instalment of the drainage systems is the possibility for production of materials for this purpose. The employment rate should be increased in the sector for production of materials, construction of these systems and their maintenance. According to that, we can speak of multidimensional benefits.

The analysis shows that in the Southwest planning period the percentage of households who dispose of installations and water drainage system is 87.2%. In comparison with the average for owning such installations on national level (95.6%), the fall behind is obvious. The coverage of the population with drinking water in the urban environments is from 70% to 90% and from 20% to 80% in the rural environments. This points out to the need of improving the water supply, with bigger degree of coverage.<sup>34</sup>

Towards this data one may add the fact that the majority of the water supply networks are not being maintained and are very old. This especially refers to the water supply systems in the rural environments. The problem of the water supply network in the rural environments is the

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<sup>34</sup>Ibid.

lack of purifying stations. Unfortunately, even in a city environment, such as Debar there is still lack of purifying station.

These conditions point out to reconstruction of the current water supply networks and construction of purifying stations.

### ***8.2.2 Drainage and purifying of waste water***

The installations in function of drainage and purifying the waste waters also represent a developing factor like the water supply. Besides the contributions from the area of production of material and employment, these systems are in function of protecting the living environment. The water supply, without drainage and purifying the waste waters reflects negatively upon the living environment and health of the citizens.

The coverage of the population with these kinds of systems in the urban environments in the Southwest planning region moves from 70% in Debar and up to 100% in Struga. The coverage in the rural environments is on lower level. It moves from 0% (septic tanks or direct slipways) up to 80% and requires an improvement.

The coverage of the population with purifying stations for waste waters shows that one of the highest values can be found in this region. It amounts up to 43.8% and by far bounces above the average in Macedonia (12.5%). Above all, this is due to the collector system for protection of Lake Ohrid. However, except in Ohrid, Struga and Makedonski Brod, in the remaining urban centres, as well as in the rural environments, the waste utility waters are being drained directly into the receptors, without any purifying processes being carried out.

### ***8.2.3 Solid waste***

In the Southwest planning region the disposal of the solid waste is being performed on the local or rural landfills. According to the National plan for waste management, there are 7 registered landfills in this area and they do not meet the basic sanitary-technical conditions for safe disposal of the waste. Besides that, there are many unregistered landfills in the region. They can be found mainly in the rural environments, but quite often they can also be found in the urban centres, especially near access points or in the periphery.

## **8.3 Energy infrastructure**

The energy infrastructure, as indicators determining the conditions includes the following: production and transfer of electrical energy, consuming electrical energy and other energy systems.

### ***8.3.1 Production and transfer of electrical energy***

The production of electrical energy in the Southwest planning region is being performed in one thermal power plant and several hydro electric power plants.

The thermal power plant Oslomej (located in the municipality with the same name) is the only one in the Southwest planning region. On annual level, its production amounts 653 GWh of electrical energy. The total capacity of the thermal power plants in Republic of Macedonia for

annual production of electrical energy is around 6200 GWh. The work of TEC Oslomej is based on the fields of lignite in the basin of Kicevo. There are fields around Oslomej, Popovjani, Stragomishta, Gjubrino and Arangel. The total coal reserves are estimated to 100 millions of tons, and only in the area around Oslomej there are 60 millions of tons. The annual production of coal is around 1 million tons.<sup>35</sup>

The surface possibility for excavating reflects positively to the exploitation, however, the capacities are constantly decreasing hence one should take into consideration the refills from other areas, outside the country. The reserves of the basin in Struga are modest (3.5 millions of tons) and they can not be a long term possibility for production of electrical energy and above all, they are being used for heating households in this region.

The hydro energy potential in the Southwest planning region is the biggest in the watershed areas of the river Crn Drim. It is 1.208 GWh. During the condition of average hydrology, the hydro power plants in Republic of Macedonia can provide up to 1300 GWh electrical energy per annum. From the possible 17, 4 hydro power plants have been build until now: Globochica (187GWh), Shpilje (305GWh), Pesochani (13GWh) and Ramne (0.5 GWh). The total annual production is 506 GWh. This is proportional usage of only 42%. The construction of the hydro power plant Boshkov Most and Belichka Reka is underway. This way one shall increase the production of electrical energy and shall enable more intensified business development.<sup>36</sup>

The transfer of electrical energy in the Southwest planning region provides good coverage. The high voltage network is part of the network on the level of the state. The position and the production capacities are the basis for the construction of main transmission line from Shpilje towards Bitola, from Kichevo towards Bitola and Skopje, from Kichevo towards Mavrovo and international one from Shpilje towards Albanija.

The distribution is mainly on the surface level and activities are being undertaken for underground distribution.

### ***8.3.2 Consumption of electrical energy***

The consumption of electrical energy in the Southwest planning region in 2007 is 306GWh in the households and 53GWh in the industrial sector, or 6.5% from the consumption of electrical energy in Macedonia 5 492GWh.<sup>37</sup> If this participation is compared with the participation of the Skopje planning region which is 32.6% from the total consumption in Macedonia, one will see different number by five times. This expresses the difference which is a reflection of the population concentration and the economic activities which in the Southwest region are remarkably below the Skopje planning region.

### ***8.3.3 Other energy systems***

Other energy systems in the Southwest planning region have not been built because here there are no toplification objects, oil pipe line, gas infrastructure or systems for geothermal energy. If the projects for the Corridor 8 and the oil pipe line AMBO are being realized, this will be of extreme importance for the region.

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<sup>35</sup> A. Stojmilov, Geography of Macedonia, Prosvetno Delo, Skopje

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Regions in R. Macedonia, State statistical office, Skopje, 2007

The planned gas pipeline infrastructure can be very important development preposition that would reflect the total energy potential and the business sector in general in the Southwest planning region.

## **9. Agricultural and rural development**

The agriculture represents important branch of industry functioning as support of the rural development and regional equality. The favourable climate conditions and possibilities for watering in the Southwest planning region are suited for its transformation from extensive to intensive agriculture. The total agricultural land in this region is 103.373 ha or around 10% of the total agricultural land in Macedonia (1.077.235 ha). However, around 50% or 52.628 ha are pastures.

The total arable land is 50.667 ha of which 80% is land for tillage and gardens. The total used agricultural land is 20.579,37 ha or 41% of the arable land. This information shows that there is a huge area for intensification of the agriculture and cultivation of the insufficiently cultivated lands. The individual sector prevails in the using of the land with 19.925,12 ha. The total area of private land is disproportionate to the area used by others. This area is 18.817 ha.<sup>38</sup> Only small part of the agricultural land is used by others, a fact that reflects the low interest for agricultural activities and the need for undertaking additional stimulation measures in this direction.

### **9.1 Structure of the land usage as per planted crops**

According to the analysis of the structure of the planted area in the Southwest planning region shows, the cereal crops prevail in the total cultivated area. Their area is 7.918 ha or 38,5%. Among them, the wheat with 4.437 ha occupies the largest area, then corn with 2.537 ha, barley with 761 ha and other cereals with 181 ha.

The agricultural plants in this region are planted on the total area of 40 ha. In the Southwest planning region of the total area of agricultural plants there is soya, tobacco, sugar beet, etc. The largest area is planted with tobacco with 7.21 ha, and the smallest are with sunflower (0.2%).

The largest part of the fodder area which include fodder beet, alfalfa, silage corn, clover and other fodder crops is planted with alfalfa (2.669 ha), and the smallest part is planted with silage corn. Considering the fact that the silage corn is basic fodder for silage, which indicates the lack of paying attention to this modern form of plant.

The total area with vegetables in the region is 971.87 ha. Among the crops dominates the potato with 401 ha, and then the peppers with 160 ha and at the end is melon with 4.12 ha.

There are very good conditions for fruit cultivation. This is as a result to the different climate, soil and altitude conditions. The possibilities are contained in the relief structure which consists of 600 m to 1.300 m altitude above sea level. The region is characteristic for its spatial structures, relatively low level of environment pollution which provides organic

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid

production in the field of fruit cultivation. There is a tradition of collecting/picking fruits from self-sows, like walnuts, chestnuts, wild plum, cornel cherry etc. Nevertheless, the seedlings production is wide spread and its variety is obvious.

The largest areas und tree trunks are planted with apples. In this region the number of the apple trees is t 511.313, and the area of the seedlings is t 513 ha. The pears in this region are planted on the area of 39 ha, and the number of trees is 29.044. The plum trees are planted on the area of 171 ha, and the tree number is 112.329. The number of the cherry trees is 18.073, planted on the total area of 35 ha. The sour cherries are planted on the total area of 12 ha, and the number of cherry trees is 14.442. The number of apricot trees is 4.137, planted on the total area of around 5 ha. The peaches are planted on the area of 15 ha, and the number of peach trees is 11.786. The walnuts are planted on the area of around 119 ha, and the number of the trees is 28.630. As a result of the restricted conditions and because there is no tradition for cultivation of almonds, the number of the almond trees is the lowest. The are of the plants is 1,5 ha, and the number of the trees is 670.

The climate and soil conditions in the Southwest planning region are restricted for cultivation of vine. The most favourable are the conditions in the Ohrid-Struga valley. The vine and the wine production are important opportunity for completeness in the tourism development.

The number of bushes in this region is 2.883.300, and the total are of vine plants is 600 ha. The wine sorts prevail in the structure of vine plants. From the indicators of this structure, it is obvious that the table wines fall behind. Therefore, measures and activities can be undertaken for improving of this situation.

From the number of the planted bushes and areas it can be seen that there is rapid reduction of this plant. The number of prepared seedlings is constantly decreasing, and the planting and reviving of the vine is reducing. It is required some simulative measure to be overtaken for improvement of this situations. Considering the small area in the seedlings, the measures should include this segment of the viticulture.

## **9.2 Use of modern techniques and technology**

The use of the modern technology represents one of the most important factors in the development of the agriculture and the total equal development. This is a result to the impact that the same has over the arable lands and intensity in the cultivation of the land. This factor is important for employment and plant increase.

In relation to this, important factors are: agricultural machines, agricultural equipment and use of fertilizers and substances for protection of plants.

### ***9.2.1. Agricultural machines and equipment***

The most common agricultural machines are the two-axle tractors. Their number is 3.245. The number of harvesters is 109. Among the most common equipment is the tractor trailers 3.195, and less common are the milking machines.

### ***9.2.2 Use of fertilizers and substances for protection***

The area treated with mineral fertilizers is 8.266 ha.

As substances for protection are used: herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides. The insecticides are most commonly used on area of around 18.399 ha.

### **9.3 Irrigation**

The irrigation is a factor which increases the plants and provides cultivation of cultures which requires this type of additional fertilization. The total area irrigated in the Southwest planning region is around 5.700 ha, of which the most irrigated is the land planted corn with 2.123 ha.<sup>39</sup> The use of the modern irrigating systems is at the very beginning, but it is required to work on their improvement.

### **9.4 Stock, poultry and bee breeding**

The structure of the agricultural land shows that the meadows and the pastures are the most common in this region (50%). However, these potentials are insufficiently used for stockbreeding, which is on low level.

The stock is characteristic for its variety. In this region the number of sheep is 109.627, of cattle is 23.730, goats 13.533, pigs 13.862 and horses 2.805, and the total number of poultry is 204.540. The number of rabbits bred is 1.457. The increasing in the number of bee breeders and bees is specific. The number of bee families in the region is 16.376. The favourable climate and vegetation conditions provide improvement of this profitable activity. Considering the fact that the number of bee breeders that have bee families up to ten baskets is increasing, it is necessary the simulative measures to apply to this kind of production activities.

### **9.5 Fishery**

The fishery in the Southwest planning region in the past was characteristic for Ohrid Lake and Crn Drim River. However, the ban on fishing is still effective for the most common fish species. Thus, the fishery is conducted in organization form in the fishpond whose number is increasing.

### **9.6 Agricultural associations**

The structure of the agricultural associations shows that the most common is the individual agriculture, and the business entities fall behind. The area of the agricultural lands in the individual sector is 25.773 ha, and the business entities own 661 ha.<sup>40</sup>

The number of employees in the individual agricultural sector is 54.568, and the number of employees in the business entities is 118. Regarding the age, 11.204 are between 35 and 44 old of the total number of employees. That is relatively favourable structure and represents significant potential.<sup>41</sup> As a result, the organization forms of activity in the agriculture should be stimulated in the Southwest planning region.

The education is important factor for the development of the agriculture. According to the analysis of the structure, the most common is the category of individuals with finished

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

primary school. Their number is 25.487. This means that there is disadvantage relating the quality of the labour force, which requires changes.<sup>42</sup>

The season character of the agriculture imposes season employments. The number of the season employees is 5.450.<sup>43</sup> This character of the activity gives opportunity for the unemployed and some other categories of welfare beneficiaries to be engaged in the agriculture and in certain way to relieve the budget and to decrease in the unemployment rate.

## 10. Cultural development

The Southwest planning region has rich cultural heritage, extraordinary cultural, historical and art assets which confirms the existence and continuity of civilization in the region during the millenniums. The archaeological explorations are dynamic, and there are churches and monasteries with priceless architecture and frescos. The building groups are very important for the history of the architecture. In the region there are many towers and fortresses, monuments and memorials, buildings of the Islam architecture, bazaars and other historical and urban-architectonic structures, industry objects and real properties. In the region there are also culture institutions where very important manifestations take place. The ethnography in the greatest part of the region has authentic characteristics.

According to the National register of cultural heritage, in the Southwest planning region there are 350 different cultural-historical sights.<sup>44</sup> The city of Ohrid with its natural rarity and cultural treasure is protected by UNESCO.

Ohrid-Struga region is the richest region, not only in the Southwest region but also within the country. The number of cultural monuments registered in the Central register of Macedonia, in Ohrid is 69, and in Struga 30. In the other municipalities there are registered monuments.<sup>45</sup> There are Neolithic findings in Ohrid-Struga valley. (Crkveni livadi – Vranishta – near Struga and Usta – Struga and Bay of the Bones – near Ohrid – palafitte settlements, Gorno Sredoreche – Debrca and Dolno Trno – Debrca).

The Metal Age is characterized with localities from the Copper Age in Usta – Struga, from the Bronze Age in Crkveni livadi – Vranishta, and from Iron Age in Trbenishta – Municipality of Debrca and Gorna Porta (Upper Gate) – Ohrid, Lozishte – Rechica-Ohrid. From pre-Roman Age, the localities Lichnid-Ohrid, St.Erzamo-Ohrid, Kale-Kodzadzik - Centre Zupa Municipality, Udovo—Municipality of Debar, St.Ilija-Delogozhda—Municipality of Struga and Ohrid Fortress are registered.

From the Roman Age there is a cultural heritage in the locality Lihnid-Ohrid. From the Early Christian Age, the following localities are registered: Plaoshnik, St. Erazmo and Studenchishta in Ohrid, Radolishta and Oktisi – Municipality of Struga.

The most popular churches and monasteries are: Monastries of St Naum and St. Pantelejmon – Plaoshnik from IX century, St.Sofia, XI century, St. Bogorodica Perivlepta XIII, St.John the Theologian-Kaneo XIII century, St.Erazmo XIV century, St.Stefan middle century, St.

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid

<sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>44</sup> Spatial Plan of R. Macedonia, Public Enterprise for Spatial and Urban plans, Skopje, 2004

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

Nicolas Bolnichki XIV century, St.Bogorodica Bonichka XIV century, St.Mali Vrachii XIV century, St.Constantine and Helena XIV, St.Dimitry, XIV century and St. Bogorodica Celnica, XIV century in Ohrid, St.Bogorodica Zahumska, XIV century; St.Bogorodica Pestanska XIV century, St.Spasa-Leskoec-near Ohrid, St.Petka—Velgoshti, the Ascendance of St. Holy Mother XV century Velestovo-near Ohrid, St.Nicolas - Openica XIV century, St. Gorgija - Rechica - near Ohrid and St. Gorgi Vrbjani XIII century, All Saints (Si Sveti) XV century - Leshani, St. Gorgi XV century – Godivje and St. Bogorodica – Vrbjani XV century, all in Municipality of Debrca. In the Municipality of Debar remarkable churches are: St.Petka XII century; St.Varvara XVI – Rajchica, the St.Gjorgji Pobedonosec (St.George the Victorious), XIX century. In the Municipality of Struga, St. Bogorodica Monastery Complex with cave church from XV century, the cave churches St. Archangel Mihail XIII century-Radozhda and St.Spasa-Vishni XV century and St.George-Struga XVI century where the icon St.George of 1267 is located are more important churches. In Vranishta there is the basilica St.Holy Mother of God from XI century. In the Municipality of Makedonski Brod, there is the St.Bogorodica church from XIV century - Modrishte and St. Holy Mother (Bogorodica) Episkepsis from XIX century, built on fundamentals of the old church from XIII century. In the Municipality of Drugovo is located the St. Prechista (Monastery of Immaculate Mother) Monastery from XIV century.

In the region there are monuments of the Islamic culture. Among the most important are the following: Hajdar Pasha Mosque from XV century and Zeynel Abidin Pasha Mosque from XVII century and Helvati Tekke in Ohrid.

The towers and the fortified towns are important monuments in the culture of this region. The dominant place takes the Ohrid Fortress, locality Gradishte and Kiklopski Dzirini (Cyclops Fortress) above the St.Erazmo in Ohrid. The localities which deserve to be treated according to high valorization criteria are the Kale in Kodjadjik - Municipality of Centar Zhupa and Udovo-Municipality of Debar. Special cultural attraction is the fortress Devina Kula – Devich, as well as the town Kale Stolovatec- Belica in Municipality of Makedonski Brod.

In the group of culture monuments as old-town architecture and old-town complexes and houses are part of the cultural heritage kept despite the great impact of the contemporary pressures of the urbanization and new architecture. Among these, the most important are the complexes in Varosh in Ohrid and the Houses of Robevci and Urania and in Struga, the old part of the town.

Among the monuments and memorials from the newer history and culture, more significant are the Memorial of the Fallen Fighters in NOB (National Liberation War) in Ohrid and Struga.

The level of cultural development in the Southwest planning region can be determined from the number of the institutions in the field of culture. Among the most significant are the following: Institute for protection of cultural monuments in Ohrid including the National Museum, the Museum of Slavic writing culture and the Gallery of Icons in the complex St. Bogorodica Perivlepta and other museum establishments. In Struga, the most significant is the Natural and Scientific Museum Nikola Nezlobinski, the Memorial House of Miladinov Brothers and the newly opened Gallery of Icons in Struga and near Struga.



The cultural centres and houses of culture in Ohrid, Struga, Debar, Kichevo and Makedonski Brod represent a factor for development of the culture and the same should be improved in order to prevent the tendency of their extinguishing.<sup>46</sup>

The low number of libraries, especially in the rural areas is characteristic for this region. The rural development should be founded on this segment of the raising of the cultural level.

In the last census year, there is only one professional theatre in this region, and also amateur theatres in Struga, Debar and Kichevo.

The region is well-known by the most significant international and national manifestations. These are: Ohrid Summer Festival, Struga Poetry Evenings, Balkan Festival of Folk Songs and Dances, Prlichev's Orations, Velestovo Poetry Evenings, Struga's Musical Fall, Folk Costumes Exhibition – Struga, Festival of Folk Song and Dances (Kend jeha)-Struga, Days of Culture – Debar, Days of Poetry – Debar, Festival of Theater – Debar, Vevchani Carnival, Podgorec Goces's Days, Belchishta Art Colony – Debrca, Art Colony Kichevo and many art exhibitions.

The ethnography is the result of the long cultural tradition and multicultural. That is reflected in the popular art of construction, industry activities, the food, traditional costumes and folk songs and dances.

Regarding the cultural heritage, many valuables and localities i.e. cultural-historical monuments are located in the rural areas in the hills and therefore activities for their protection can be undertaken.

## **11. Protection of the environment and renewable energy resources**

The equal development is based upon the sustainability which means, above all, protection of the environment. Beside the fact that the protection includes advantages which serve for raising the standard of the population, also is a factor within the development of tourism. The use of the sustainable energy resources provides balance of the energetic balance and perspectives in the field of economy and employment. The natural heritage includes the developing and cultural developing dimension.

The conditions in this region should be considered depending on the characteristics of the protected areas, waste disposal, the quality of the water, air and soil, the condition of the biodiversity, emission of gasses and greenhouse effect.

### **11. 1 Protected natural resources**

The protection of the nature includes different levels. The resources in the Southwest planning region are not only of national, but also of international interest.

The highest level of protection enjoys the natural ensemble of Ohrid which together with the cultural and historical heritage are part of the register of worldwide heritage.

The National Park Galichica is located in this region on total area of 22.750 ha. There are three protected zones, among which one with strict protection regime. This regime covers also the shore sections and cliffs, Magaro regions, St.Naum springs and high-mountain pools.

Within the National Park there are 600 flora species, of which 170 are ligneous plants which include relict and endemic plants.

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<sup>46</sup> N. Marinoski, Macedonian tourist postcard, Institute of tourism at the FTU – Ohrid, Ohrid, 1996.

When this area was declared a national park, 170 animal species were put under regime including 10 amphibians, 18 reptiles, 124 birds and 18 mammals.<sup>47</sup>

According to the Spatial Plan of Macedonia, under protection are also other natural resources in the Southwest planning region or are planned to be under protection. In the project for declaring the National park Jakupica it is foreseen a part of the same to be located also in the area of Municipality of Makedonski Brod. The preparing of the planning documentation for declaring Jablanica as National park is in progress.

The locality Sini Viroj and Belchishko Blato in the Municipality of Debar are protected on the level of a natural reservation.

Pesochanska Reka – Debrca, Strazha – Zajas and Osoj – Ohrid are planned as scientific and research natural reservations.

Krushino – Kichevo is suggested to be declared as special landscape.

The group of special natural reservations should be included Baba Sach – Vraneshtica, Zajaska Reka – Zajas, Lukovo – Struga, Studenchica – Drugovo and Studenchishta – Ohrid.

Protection of the separate flora and fauna outside the natural reservations which are located in Suvi Dol-Drugovo and Drenochka Reka – Struga.

The Monuments of nature are: Alipashica - Struga, Babin Srt - Centar Zhupa, Beleshnichka Reka - Makedonski Brod, Vevchanski izvori (Vevchani Springs) - Vevchani, Vevchansko Ezero (Vevchani Lake) - Vevchani, gypseous cave Alchija – Debar, Golubarnik – Makedonski Brod, Gorna Slatinska Peshtera – Makedonski Brod, Dab – Plasnica, Dabovo steblo – Makedonski Brod, Dabovo steblo Lukovo – Struga, Dabovo steblo Delogozhda – Struga, Dabovi stebila – Struga, Duvalo – Ohrid, Ela – Vevchani, Zmejovica – Makedonski Brod, Kosten – Struga, Krapa – Makedonski Brod, Makedonski dab – Ohrid, Oreoc – Makedonski Brod, Ostrovo – Ohrid, Ohrid Lake - Ohrid, Debrca and Struga, Peshna - Makedonski Brod, cave Mlechnik in Tashmarunishta - Struga, cave Jaorec – Debrca, cave Momichek – Makedonski Brod, cave Samoska Dupka – Ohrid, cave Kamenolom – Kichevo, cave Utova Dupka – Drugovo, cave Kalina Dupka – Drugovo, cave Ginchejca – Drugovo, cave Orle – Makedonski Brod, Pitran – Plasnica, Platan (Sycamore) – Struga, Platan (Sycamore) – Vevchani, Platan (Sycamore) in Veleshta – Struga, sycamore Chinar – Ohrid, Podgorechko Lake – Struga, Slansko - Makedonski Brod and Tajmishte – Zajas.<sup>48</sup>

Most of these protected areas and objects are not marked and put into effect which means that it is necessary to activate the same in direction of their affirmation and use not only for scientific purposes, but also for cultural presentation and recreation.

## 11.2 Waste disposal

The increase of the number of population in the Southwest planning region is one of the factors causing problems relating to the disposal of the waste materials. The waste materials are in form of solid waste, industrial waste, dangerous waste, construction waste and special waste.

The solid waste is disposed in the local or in the municipal landfills. According to the National plan for waste management, in this area there are 7 registered landfills, but the same do not meet the sanitary-technical requirements for safe waste disposal. There are also

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<sup>47</sup> Plan for spatial arrangement of the National Park Galichica, Ohrid, 1988.

<sup>48</sup> Spatial Plan of R. Macedonia, Public Enterprise for Spatial and Urban plans, Skopje, 2004

unregistered landfills. These are located in rural areas, but also can be seen in urban centres, especially in the natural and peripheral parts in that area.

The projected quantity of solid waste is:

- In Kichevo-Makedonski Brod area it is 62 to 70 tons per day or 22.730 tones per year. In the next ten years it is estimated to be 537.330 tons.
- In Debar-Radicka area, the daily quantity it is 34 to 38 tones waste or 12.480 tons waste per year. In the next ten years it is estimated to be 293.520 tons waste.
- In Ohrid-Struga area, the daily quantity it is 123 to 133 tons of waste. On annual basis that is 45.230 tons, and in the next ten years it would be 1.124.850 tons of waste.<sup>49</sup>

In the Southwest planning region, the first phase of the procedure for granting concession for integrated operation with communal solid waste in all municipalities is in progress. The subject of the concession is financing, projecting, construction and operation with regional landfill for solid waste, procurement of mobile equipment for conducting the methods for sanitary disposal, as well as procurement of vehicles and equipment for collecting and regional transport of communal solid waste. The concessionary should be obligated for closing of the unregistered landfills in the region. One has also opened the preliminary procedure for founding an intermunicipal public enterprise for regional integrated communal waste management. The founding of this kind of enterprise is in line with the Law on inter-municipal cooperation, the Law on waste operation and the Law on Communal Activities.

### **11.3 Renovation, revitalization and protection**

The protection of the environment is renovation and revitalization of degraded areas and protection of permanently endangered development potentials. These activities should include:

- revitalization of the landfill for technogenic waste from TEC Oslomej;
- revitalization of the degraded areas during exploitation in Oslomej and iron ore in Tajmishte;
- biological measures for protection of the area in Kichevsko pole near the coal mines and landfills of TEC Oslomej and arable lands near M-4;
- organized protection in the Southwest planning region as a result to the delicacy of the cliffs in this area;
- protection of endangered forest species;
- forming protection zone of the springs in the region;
- revitalization of the communal landfills for solid waste;
- arrangement of the tailings pond of coal mine Piskupshtina;
- establishing monitoring for the quality of the soil and monitoring of the concentrations of heavy metals;
- establishment of protection zones for geothermal spring and waters;
- undertaking anti-erosive measures;
- construction of settling basins on the Sateska River;
- purification of the waters in river basin area (water treatment plants and collecting systems) and

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid

- afforestation of the erosive areas;<sup>50</sup>

## **11.4 Water quality**

The quality of the waters depends on the level of protection from pollution. Lake Ohrid is the one of the cleanest lakes in Macedonia. That is a due to the collecting system established in the lake. However, it isn't completed and it requires full finalization. Considering the fact that the Lake ranks among the international waters, activity should be undertaken at international level in order to whole protection including the part in Albania to be provided. At the mouth of the Sateska River the quality of the Ohrid Lake water is lowest. Therefore, it is very important better quality of the water in this river to be provided.

Crn Drim River has satisfying water quality in the part near the water treatment plant of the collecting system in the Ohrid Lake near Vranishta. Starting from here the quality of the water decreases going up to the Lake Globochica as a result to the waste waters from the near settlements and the confluences which are collectors of the sewerage systems. Here, the quality of the water is of IV category and instant measures should be undertaken for its improvement. This refers to the rivers Vevchani, Podgorci and Labushta.

In relation to these conditions of the Crni Drim watershed, Radika River has relatively good quality of the water. Without regard to some local influences, the water in Radika River has quality of I and II category, which means the best quality. This refers to the need for prevention of the quality of this river and monitoring.

River Treska from Kichevo has relatively high organic and microbiological pollution. The fecal pollution is also relatively high as a result to the unpurified communal waters which the river collects. Therefore, instant measures should be undertaken for purification of the polluted waters.

## **11.5 Air quality**

The air quality is a factor that directly influences the health of the population. The number of acute diseases of the respiratory system as result to the air pollution is highest during the winter because of the increased combustion of the fossil and solid fuel. Therefore, the development should consider its importance. The air quality also has great importance for the climate changes and for the ozone layer. Thus, it isn't only regional gain from it, but also universal benefit.

In the Southwest planning region, the concentration of the carbon monoxide differs depending on the municipality. In Debar, the quantity of carbon monoxide is 71%. This is a result to the wood industry and households that use solid fuels. In Makedonski Brod, the highest pollution was 81%, and the sources of that pollution are the same as in Debar. Kichevo is polluted mostly with CO<sub>2</sub> (the pollution is 82%), and the source of the pollution is TEC Oslomej.

In the remaining municipalities, the pollution has not been measured, but the sources of the pollution are also the households which use solid fuels, the industry and the traffic. One imposes the stance of constructing heating systems which can be power plants with maximum combustion as well as mounting filters for air purification.

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid

## **11.6 Soil pollution**

The soil pollution is a result to the pollution of the waste waters, sedimentation of solid particles from the air, suspended dust particles, ground excavations of coal and mineral raw materials (quarries), erosion, irrational use of chemical substances in the agriculture, traffic roads, landfills, and livestock fecal and waste materials from unconscious citizens.

In the Southwest planning region, there is no developed system providing permanent control of the level of soil pollution as basis for production of the healthy food and prevention of the quality of the underground and ground waters.

Therefore, it is required to set up a network with several measuring points to be installed for monitoring the quality of the air, of the water and of the soil for intervention in conditions when the allowed level has been exceeded.

## **11.7 Condition of the biodiversity**

The natural characteristics of the area are result to the different influences. The continental and Mediterranean factors are the reason for notable functioning of the biodiversity. It reflects the connections between the diversity of the species, ecosystems and genetic characteristics. For prevention of the biodiversity the natural habitats are to be maintained.

In this region, examples for damaged biodiversity are the drying of the swamps in Struga field (Strushko pole), drainage of the water lily and reeds from the Ohrid Lake shore from Struga towards Kalishta and the devastation of the Studenchisko blato in Ohrid with rubble.

Special influence has the establishment of the artificial reservoirs Globochica and Debar Lake on the natural reproduction of the eel. The urbanization of Ohrid and Struga and the overloading of the streams is a factor for damaging of the biodiversity. Exceeded fishery of the Ohrid trout was the reason for long-term ban on fishing in Lake Ohrid.

Even though there is no sufficient proof of the situation with hunting, this is the factor for decreasing the number of the game and the extinction of some species (bobcats). Exceeding exploitation of the water is a reason for endangering of the water eco-systems and the change of the hydrology of the region. (As a result to the disorganized excavation of the shore, the glacier lake in Labunishta is in danger of decaying).

Thus, the following activities are to be undertaken:

- Prevention of the lokvan and reed from extinction in the littoral zone of the Ohrid Lake and their revitalization;
- Prevention of the swamp in Studenchishta from devastation;
- Construction of hatcheries for renewing the natural way of reproduction of the eel;
- Arrangement of the existing watercourses and renewing of the buried streams;

The exceeded hunt and fishery should be prevented with integral protection, enforcement of the laws and of the international standards. The measures for bringing the hunting and fishing fond in optimal ranges should improve the hunt and fishery.

Undertaking measures for controlled use of the waters and revitalization of the devastated areas and localities (revitalization of the Labunishta Lake).

## **11. 8 Renewable energy resources**

In the Southwest region there are perfect opportunities for using renewable energy resources besides the hydro-energetic potential which does not pollute the environment. And these are: the wind, insolation and thermal waters.

### ***11.8.1 The wind as renewable energy resource***

In the Southwest planning region, the wind is not used as renewable energy resource. However, the region is characterized with notable windiness. This is as a result to the influence of the western winds, and the most common winds in direction west-east are characteristic for the municipalities of Debar and Centar Zhupa. In the municipalities of Ohrid, Struga and Debrca the most common is the wind in the direction south-north.

That means that there are favourable conditions for this kind of production of renewable energy. The most intensive and most common winds are in winter when there is highest energy consumption which justifies the need for use of this energy resource.

### ***11.8.2 Solar energy***

This region is characteristic for the long sunny periods. In all municipalities, its value is higher than 2.000 hours of sun in the year.<sup>51</sup> This means that not only on national level, but in the greatest part of Europe, this region has favourable conditions for use of this kind of energy resource. However, it is not sufficiently exploited and there is no energetic capacity for production of electric energy. Within the individual sector, the installation of systems for exploitation of this energy resource is increasing, but there is need for intensifying the installation process.

### ***11.8.3 Geothermal energy***

The geothermal energy is located in Municipality of Debar, in Banjishte and Kosovrasti. The capacity of these springs is part of the capacity and temperature of the waters.

In the thermal bath Banjishte there are three springs, Dolni Bazen with capacity of 35 l/sec and temperature of 39,3°C. Goren Bazen has water of capacity of 5,2 l/sec and temperature of 36°C. Nova Kaptazha has water capacity of 51 l/sec and temperature 38,8°C.<sup>52</sup>

The springs in the spa Kosovrasti has capacity of 120 l/sec which the highest capacity if this kind in Macedonia. The temperature of the water is 48°C<sup>53</sup>. This means that this resource has the highest capacity in the land.

However, none of these resources has been exploited and they only are energetic potentials.

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<sup>51</sup> A. Lazarevski, Climate in Macedonia, Kultura, Skopje, 1993.

<sup>52</sup> A. Stojmilov, Debarski banji, Banjishte and Kosovrasti banja, Geographical reviews, geographic association of SRM, Skopje, 1971.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

## **12. Tourism development**

The tourism is the most common characteristic of the Southwest planning region. This region is the most developed tourism region in Macedonia. The natural characteristics, rich culture heritage, protected areas and the long tradition are base for the fast development of the tourism. Further more, this region has many resources that have possibility to be included in the touristic offer. There are many places in this region, which can be developed as places for alternative tourism.

These are solid basis for acceleration of the other industry branches, development of the culture and decrease in the unemployed rate and etc. The traffic connection is a basis for development of the tourism. But, also it should be considered that the projected traffic and infrastructure systems can promote the future development of the tourism. The tourism will promote the start of new cycle in the structuring of the infrastructure.

### **12.1 Accommodation capacities**

The accommodation capacities in the tourism have double meaning. On one hand, they are the most significant receptive factor of the tourism development, and on the other hand are indicator of the development level.

The analysis of the data for accommodation capacities refers to the scope, dynamics and the structure of the units included.

In the Southwest planning region, the number of the rooms is 16.400 with 42.425 beds. In Macedonia, the total number of rooms I 26.503, which means that 62% are in the Southwest planning region. The number of beds in Macedonia is 71.021, which means that 59,7% are part of the capacities in the Southwest planning region.<sup>54</sup>

The scope and the dynamics of the catering facilities is important indicator for the development of the receptive sector. Nevertheless, it indicates the level of development of the catering offer in great measure because most of these facilities are not connected with the accommodation capacities. In the Southwest planning region, there are 277 business units in the catering, and the total number all over Macedonia is 2.058. The total turnover is 1.191 million denars, which is 1/6 of the total turnover all over Macedonia (6.174 million denars).

### **12.2 Tourism turnover**

The scope, dynamics and the structure of the tourism turnover reflect the development dimension of the tourism in the Southwest planning region. It reflects the visiting rate which determines the average number of visits and utilization of the accommodation capacities.

#### **12.2.1 Visiting rate**

According to the analysis of the visiting rate, the number of visitors in the last analyzed year is 233.218, which means participation of 47% of the total visits in Macedonia.

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<sup>54</sup> Regions in R. of Macedonia, State Statistical Office, Skopje, 2007

Regarding the dynamics of the visits, it can be noticed that the number of tourists in the period from 2004 to 2008 is increasing, that is from 222.950 to 276.669.<sup>55</sup>

The structure of the visits is relatively unfavourable. That is a result to the fact that the number of the domestic tourists is higher than the number of foreign tourists. The number of domestic tourists is 193.662, and the number of foreign tourists is 83.007.<sup>56</sup>

Most of the tourists are coming from Serbia, then Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Turkey, Slovenia and Croatia. Thus, the most significant sphere is the Balkans, and Serbia has the leading role.<sup>57</sup>

These characteristics indicate that the offer and the promotion activities in the region should be directed towards the countries in the vicinity considering the visiting rate, and the conquering of new spheres should be based on the conducting of exploring activities.

### 12.2.2 Stay

The stay is one of the indicators of the quality of the services. The prolonging of the stay means successful touristic activity. It depends on the visits, but it is also a development indicator. The prolonged stay means success in the placing of the touristic services and characteristic rate of satisfaction of the tourists visiting the region.

The stay is determined by the number of overnight stays, and the average rate of stay via these overnight stays as per visitor. The utilization of the accommodation capacities determines the proportion of the achieved overnight stays as per accommodation capacity unit.

According to the analysis of the indicator, in the last analyzed year, the number of overnight stays in the Southwest planning region is 1.452.205.<sup>58</sup>

The participation of this region in the overnight stays in Macedonia is 65%. This information indicates that the region has very high participation in these achievements. The dynamics of the achieved overnight stays in the last ten years indicates relative increase in the total overnight stays, which is an obvious development in the sphere.

The structure of the achieved overnight stays indicates that the number of the overnight stays of the domestic tourist is the highest (1.202.890) and the number of other overnight stays of the foreign tourists is 249.315. The overnight stays of the domestic guests in the region participate with 72,98%, and those of the foreign visitors participate with 42,44% all over Macedonia.<sup>59</sup>

The structure of the overnight stays of the foreign tourists indicates that those stays of the foreign tourists from the vicinity prevail. This means that the Balkan Peninsula is the main source of tourists. Most of the overnight stays were by the tourists are coming from Serbia, then Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Turkey, Slovenia and Croatia. The directing of the touristic offer and undertaking activities for promotion should include these arguments during the composing of the same. This is a result of the determination arising out of the analysis and structure of the visits.

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> Ibid

<sup>58</sup> Ibid

<sup>59</sup> Ibid



The average stay rate of the total number of tourists in the Southwest planning region is 5,25 days. The foreign tourists has stayed 2,98 days and the domestic tourists 6,2 days. The stay all over Macedonia is longer than the one in the Southwest region as a result to the character of the business visits in the Skopje planning region. Nevertheless, possibilities for prolonging the average stay should be provided. In this direction, the content of the stay is of priority importance.

The utilization of the accommodation capacities in this region is 10%. This means that the utilization of the accommodation capacities is very low, which is a reason for improvement of the situation.

### **12.2.3 Tourist Consumption**

The effects of the tourist visits and stay, which is of the utilization of the receptive capacities, are reflected via the consumption. The Southwest planning region in the scope of visits and overnight stays participate with 65% of the achieved incomes, and the number of overnight stays is 249.315 which is a base for calculation of the consumption from the tourism. The indicator of the funds for tourism purpose is around 80 dollars per day all over the world. Based upon these indicators, the income achieved from the tourism in the Southwest planning region is around 20 million dollars.

### **12.2.4 Types of tourism**

The Southwest planning region is characteristic for its concentration of accommodation capacities, income gained from the tourism and the consumption realized from the tourism, above all in the Ohrid-Struga region. This concentration of development realizations is a result of the great natural and anthropogenic resources in the area. The dominant place is taken by Lake Ohrid and the cultural heritage. Thus, the lake and the culture tourism are the main types of tourism. The development of the lake tourism should consider the capacities of the Debarca and Globochica Lake.

The visible concentration of protected area is a basis for development of ecotourism. The main resource of the ecotourism is the National Park Galichica, and declaring Jablanica as national park gives a new perspective for this type of tourism. This type of tourism finds its resource basis in other areas in the regions too. In this sense, Porechie deserves special attention. Nevertheless, it can be noted that the development potentials of this type of tourism are not exploited, and have good perspective.

Thermal-bath tourism is a development category whose resources are concentrated in the Debar valley. The development capacities based upon the water capacity and temperatures are much greater than the activated and thus the thermal-bath tourism in the region deserves special attention as perspective.

The mountain tourism in the Southwest planning region has solid attractive resource basis. The height of the mountains, suited ski terrains and the climate characteristics are advantages for activation of this kind of tourism. The mountain tourism nowadays is in form of mount climbing and rare alpine visits, while there is no infrastructure required for the ski activities. (The only modest cable car in Vushni village is out of order).

There are spatial possibilities and relatively satisfying presence of fauna species for hunting and fishing tourism. Yet, the organized forms of this type of tourism activities are rare and insufficiently present.

The transit tourism is a type of tourism which can be developed in this region based upon the develop road network. This type of tourism has special importance considering the fact that the region is a part of the group of area with opportunities for cross border cooperation and road connections with the neighbouring countries.

Despite the main types of tourism, the Southwest planning region has opportunities for selective development forms.<sup>60</sup> These should provide decrease in the concentration of the visits and stay within the mass tourism/ Still, there are not such forms in the region. This type of tourism is occasional. So, the rural tourism exists only in restaurant offer (Vevchani), and not through mountain activities. Thus, it is necessary for the regional development to consider these opportunities and to project their development in the region.

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<sup>60</sup> N. Marinkoski, Alternative forms of tourism on mountain Jablanica, Local development agency, Struga, Struga, 2009.

**SECOND PART:  
SWOT ANALYSES, VISION, STRATEGIC GOALS,  
PRIORITIES AND MEASURES FOR REALIZATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

### **13. Regional SWOT analyses**

The SWOT analysis of the situations in the Southwest planning region is a result of joint efforts of GTZ, the Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region, and the regional work and social partner groups, as well as the activities that the Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region is implementing from its founding in order to build a consistent development programme of the region within the 2009-2014.

In series of workshops, held in the course of the summer months of 2008 (by GTZ) part of the aforementioned entities carried out a joint and thorough assessment of the competitiveness of the region through research, processing of the collected data given in this development document and analyses of the indicators from the internal situation of the region (strengths and weaknesses) and the external environment (opportunities and threats).

The results presented hereinafter, also a product of the sector analyses that were made based on the Methodology adopted by the Ministry of the Local Self-Government and the recommendations of the Ministries that are included in the Council for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia.

On the basis of these realizations it has been concluded that special attention should be drawn to the following sectors: *demographic development, economic development, labour market, social development, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development, tourism, cultural development, environment protection and renewable sources of energy.*

The final synthesis of the elements deriving from this process enabled us to confirm some of the previous, but also to acquire new understandings for the regional challenges, opportunities and potentials, as well as for the risks concerning the sustainability of the development strategy. The results of the regional needs analysis are given hereunder, in a form of main regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

#### **13.1 Strengths**

- Available natural resources and relatively clean environment, with solid infrastructural basis, international airport, border zones and crossings.
- The high rate of activity at the persons with higher education, young population of working ability and expert active workforce.

- The largest participation in small and medium enterprises in the employment, particularly in the civil engineering, textile industry, wood industry, tourism and agriculture
- Existence of a large number of production potentials and capacities, tradition in the artisanship
- Positive population growth and balance in the gender structure, with a supernormal representation of the preschool and school educational contingent in the total number of the population, as well as by the subnormal internal migrations
- The large agricultural surfaces and favourable climate for cultivation of wheat crops, aromatic and Mediterranean plants, industrial and fodder crops, vegetables, fruit and vine.
- Large pastures for breeding various livestock, developed activity with fishponds and fish stocking
- Development of basic tourism types, rich attractive fund with development potentials existing capacities hotel accommodation, seats in the catering and increased tourist consumption
- Existing of archaeological sites and artefacts, churches, monasteries, mosques and tekkes,
- towers and fortresses, memorial monuments for which a solid protection has been provided, active cultural institutions, regular cultural manifestations during the year
- National and international environment protection, with conditions for production of healthy food, as well as production of energy of renewable sources such as the water potentials, biomass, the wind, the sun, as well as the geothermal water

### **13.2 Weaknesses**

- The intermittent density of the population at the municipalities, settlements and in the rural environments, with unequal birth rate and a high level of external migrations from the rural municipalities resulting in depopulation at certain places and an increase of the old-age contingent.
  - Falling behind in the GDP on a state level with lowest gross salary per employee, due to the low productivity, competitiveness and poor export performances, resulting in high workforce costs per product unit
  - The greatest loss of work places, as well as a mass drain of expert staff was registered due to the decrease and winding up of the large and medium enterprises that were active in the region on a state level
  - Insufficient use of modern technologies, insufficiently developed logistic infrastructure and industry, unequal development of the municipalities and places within the region
  - Deficit of applicable studies and development programmes, weak marketing planning and absence of a sufficient number of associations in the business community on all levels, but also an inadequate educational structure of the population pursuant to the needs of the economy
  - Lack of investments due to limiting conditions for business development particularly due to law and property affairs, inadequate infrastructure, urban planning and promotions, as well as a poor legal application and efficiency
  - High unemployment rate particularly low employment among the young population

- Poor quality of the roads due to oldness and insufficient maintenance, a road and railway network the complete construction of which is still not finalized, poor marking and a lack of resources and signalization
- Dilapidated local water supply infrastructure and existence of asbestos pipelines, poor drinking water quality and absence of drainages and treatment plants in the rural environments
- Absence of oil pipeline and gas pipeline, small reserves of coal and there is no built systems for usage of the geothermal waters
- Weak organization of the farmers and fragmentation of the agricultural surfaces, small number of business entities and poor employment due to principally seasonal employments
- Poor connectivity of the tourist potentials, unfavourable foreign visit and stay signifying weak utilization of the accommodation capacities, as well as a very poor offer for alternative types of tourism
- Insufficient signalization for the cultural monuments, weak inter-institutional communication and insufficient care for the theatre
- Increase in the quantity of garbage and its uncontrolled disposal, air pollution from chimneys of the households and from the thermal power station Oslomej, as well as pollution from uncontrolled use of artificial fertilizers.

### **13.3 Opportunities and threats**

The opportunities and threats can be divided into external, i.e. out of the state, and internal i.e. inside the state and the Southwest Planning Region.

#### **13.3.1 External opportunities**

- Economic climate at the foreign investors in terms of approximation of the Republic of Macedonia towards the Euro Atlantic structures
- Visa liberalization
- Membership into WTO and similar organizations
- Differences in the amount of taxes between the developed countries and the Republic of Macedonia
- The continuous growth in the tourism sector on an international level is an advantage for the region because that is one of the key sectors of the Southwest Planning Region.
- Emergence of new sectors that could be favourable for the region, for example an alternative tourism, alternative/renewable energies
- New international trade arrangements with the EU, using the IPA, other European programmes and establishing cooperation with the external organizations
- Using the international traffic corridors

#### **13.3.2 Internal opportunities**

- Openness towards foreign investment activities
- Undertaking promotional activities for attracting investments
- Opportunities for using the relatively young population and a dynamic natural growth
- Relatively small economy both nationally and on a regional level allowing rapid adjustment of the market conditions
- The high unemployment rate, particularly large number of persons i.e. technological redundancy, in the region with favourable qualifications and experience is an

exceptional opportunity for the correct directing and utilization of the human resources, through merging of the business entities from related professions for a joint venture

- Promotion of the region for attracting foreign direct investments and investments of emigrants for restarting of the closed production capacities and accelerated industry development
- Providing locations – zones for construction of industrial zones and technological centres that will increase the number of business service providers for enhancing the business environment, the circulation of new business ideas and opportunities
- Stimulating the entrepreneurship development and increasing the competitive capabilities, revitalization of the artisanship and encouraging the family businesses
- Sustainable utilization of the natural and cultural treasure through utilization of the instruments for support and development of the micro regions
- Increasing the administrative capacities of the municipalities due to the increased competences with the decentralization
- Essential application of the Law on Equal Regional Development and the Law on Public Private Partnership, as well as better communication and cooperation between the entities in the region

### **13.3.3 External threats**

- Political and safety instability in the wider region
- Increased risks from external shocks and changes. They can come from sources such as the international terrorism, potential pandemics, climate changes and shortage of energy
- Possible negative downturn in the global economy with the reduced economic efficiency of the key markets, and from a medium-term viewpoint unsustainability of the existing structures in the economies of the most developed countries.

### **13.3.4 Internal threats**

- Drain of young staff abroad and decline of the financial power of the population
- Insufficient application of the legal regulation, slower implementation of the existing national strategies per separate sectors
- Incompliance between the central and local authorities with regard to the resources management
- Insufficient cooperation between the public and private sector, entry of foreign products with unrealistically low prices, smuggling of excise goods and other products, grey economy
- Poor access to the services of the financial institutions due to strict and unfavourable credit criteria and high interest rates, thus discouraging the business development
- Weak restarting of the production capacities
- Low efficiency of the judiciary in resolving the bankruptcy procedures
- Extensive and weak functionality of the public administration
- High internal indebtedness
- Inadequate care for the protection of the environment, i.e. not taking into consideration all the aspects, and that can pose danger to the traditional advantage that exists with the natural and cultural treasure

## **14. Strategy, goals and priorities**

### **4.1. Vision for the development of the region**

The vision for development of the Southwest Planning Region is multilevel one. Pursuant to it,

***“The Southwest Planning Region is a place characterized by a rapid, dynamic and sustainable development, and with a particular contribution in the overall social progress of the Republic of Macedonia, and based on the economic and social development of the region, making it competitive both nationally and on an international scale”***

The regional development in the Southwest Planning Region is based on the functioning of the institutions both nationally and locally. The vision for development requires a continuous and solid policy of all relevant entities in order to resolve the disparities among the urban centres and the rural regions. The uniform development requires overall dedication of all stakeholders in the fulfilling the strategic goals, priorities and measures, laid down in this programme that should be realized in the defined medium-term period.

### **4.2 Strategic goals**

The identification of the strategic goals for promotion of the regional development in the Southwest Planning Region is made based on the analyses of the available statistical data and information from the work meetings with the stakeholders from the local government, the private and nongovernmental sector in the region. Furthermore, in the formulation of the strategic goals for regional development, the aims and priorities of the Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019 have been studied in detail, as a fundamental document for planning the development.

The main strategic goals of the development programme of the Southwest Planning Region for the period 2010-2015 are the following:

- 1. Competitive planning region both nationally and on an international level, characterized by rapid, dynamic and sustainable development***
- 2. Social, economic and spatial cohesion between the urban and rural municipalities within the region, with optimal utilization of its specific particularities***

## 14.3 PRIORITIES AND FUNDAMENTAL MEASURES

### PRIORITY I

*1. Economic growth achieved by quality level of knowledge and skills of the human capital, developed small and medium enterprises and recognizable products related to the geographical origin of the region.*

### MEASURES

- Strengthening the role of all relevant stakeholders included in the planning and realization of the regional development;
- Promotion of the region's potential for investments;
- Promoting the public private partnerships for encouraging the investments;
- Education of the entrepreneurs for investments in propulsive and profitable activities, through development of SME;
- Initiatives for recognizable products in the region;

In the tables hereunder display the activities for realizing the measures, holders of the activities, financing sources, timescale and indicators for successfulness.



<b>PRIORITY I</b> <b>ECONOMIC GROWTH ACHIEVED BY QUALITY LEVEL OF</b> <b>KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL, DEVELOPED</b> <b>SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND RECOGNIZABLE PRODUCTS</b> <b>RELATED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REGION.</b>	<b>MEASURE I.1. Strengthening the role of the municipalities in the planning and realization of the regional development</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>I.1.1 Preparing the capacities of LSGU for suggesting and realization of regional projects</b> <i>Trainings with the heads of the sectors and the members of the Council in LSGU</i>	Bureau for Regional Development Educational and development institutions LSGU Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region	GTZ UNDP	2010 -2015	Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of prepared projects
	<b>I.1.2 Strengthening the capacities of the Council for development and promotion of regional development</b> <i>Trainings with members of the Council for Development</i>	Bureau for Regional Development Educational and development institutions Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region	GTZ UNDP	2010 -2015	Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of prepared projects
<b>I.1.3 Increasing the capacities of the Centre for Development of SWPR for project management and regional development</b> <i>Trainings</i>	Bureau for Regional Development Educational and development institutions Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region	GTZ UNDP	2010 -2015	Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of prepared projects	

	<b>I.1.4 Transfer of knowledge and experiences</b> <i>Study visits for members of the Council for Development and employees in the Centre and LSGU</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	GTZ UNDP Budget of RM	2010 -2015	Number of participants Number of prepared projects Number of incorporated good examples Achieved effects from the realization of projects
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIORITY I</b></p> <p><b>ECONOMIC GROWTH ACHIEVED BY QUALITY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL, DEVELOPED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND RECOGNIZABLE PRODUCTS RELATED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REGION.</b></p>	<b>MEASURE 1.2. Promoting the potential of the region for investments</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>I.2.1 Creating and updating a database for the key entities for planning the development</b> <i>For the leading sectors in the region</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Entities from the economic sector, the agriculture and rural development, culture and tourism and NGO sector	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture GTZ	2010 -2015	Number of included entities in the database Published database Number of printed and electronically published data
	<b>I.2.2 Sector analyses</b> <i>Analyses and publications fro the key sectors</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Educational and development institutions Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Transport and Communications	2010 -2012	Prepared studies Number of printed and electronic publications
	<b>I.2.3 Study for determining the comparative strengths of the region</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Educational and development institutions Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2011	Prepared study
<b>I.2.4 Promotion of the region</b> <i>Attracting domestic and foreign investments</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for attracting direct investments	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Agency for attracting direct investments	2010 -2015	Number of concerned entities for investment Number of investments Funds provided Number of newly employed persons	

<b>PRIORITY I</b> <b>GROWTH ACHIEVED BY QUALITY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL, DEVELOPED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND RECOGNIZABLE PRODUCTS RELATED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REGION.</b>	<b>MEASURE 1.3 Promotion of public private partnership</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>I.3.1 Institutional connection of the LSGU and the private partners for a regional landfill site</b> <i>Awarding concessions to foreign partners</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Potential foreign partners	Foreign investments Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPA Component 3	2010 - 2012	Number of concerned entities for investment Funds provided Number of newly employed persons
	<b>I.3.1 Institutional connection of the LSGU and the private partners for the water resources</b> <i>Awarding concessions to foreign partners</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Potential foreign partners	Foreign investments Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPA Component 3	2012 - 2014	Number of concerned entities for investment Funds provided Number of newly employed persons
	<b>I.3.1 Institutional connection of the LSGU and the private partners for wood stocks management</b> <i>Awarding concessions to foreign partners</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Potential foreign partners	Foreign investments Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPA Component 3	2014 - 2015	Number of concerned entities for investment Funds provided Number of newly employed persons
<b>I.3.4 Institutional connection of LSGU and the private partners in the education</b> <i>Partnership with foreign entities</i>	Council for Development of Southwest Planning Region Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Potential foreign educational institutions	Foreign investments Ministry of Education and Science IPA Component 4	2014 - 2015	Number of concerned institutions for cooperation Funds provided Number of concluded partnerships Number of educational institutions	

<b>PRIORITY I</b> <b>ECONOMIC GROWTH ACHIEVED BY QUALITY LEVEL OF</b> <b>KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL,</b> <b>DEVELOPED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND</b> <b>RECOGNIZABLE PRODUCTS RELATED TO THE</b> <b>GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REGION.</b>	<b>MEASURE I.4. Education of the entrepreneurs for investments in profitable activities, through development of SME</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>I.4.1 Trainings for raising the productivity level and reducing the production costs</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region SME Potential entrepreneurs Chamber associations	Ministry of Economy	2011 -2012	Number of concerned young entrepreneurs Number of concerned SME Number of trainings Number of start-up businesses Number of newly employed persons
	<b>I.4.2 Trainings for the international standards and certificates <i>ISO, HACCP</i></b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region SME Chamber associations	Ministry of Economy	2011 -2012	Number of concerned SME Number of trainings Number of SME with introduced standards Number of acquired certificates
	<b>I.4.3 Trainings for human resources development</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region SME Chamber associations	Ministry of Economy IPA Component 4	2011 -2012	Number of concerned SME Number of trainings Number of trained participants Number of acquired certificates for successfully passed training
<b>I.4.4 Study for the advantages in forming entrepreneurship incubators</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific and research institution SME	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2011 -2013	Number of stakeholders Prepared study Formed incubator	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIORITY I</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECONOMIC GROWTH ACHIEVED BY QUALITY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL, DEVELOPED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND RECOGNIZABLE PRODUCTS RELATED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF THE REGION.</b></p>	<b>MEASURE I.5. Initiatives for recognizable products in the region</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>I.5.1 Promotion of recognizable agricultural and livestock products</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of promoted products Number of protected products Number of published materials
	<b>I.5.2 Promotion of traditional food restaurants</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Restaurants Individual producers and economy	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2012 -2015	Number of promoted restaurants Number of published materials
	<b>I.5.3 Organization and visit of fairs and festivals</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of organized fairs and festivals Number of visited fairs and festivals

## **PRIORITY II**

*2. Location with a developed and modern road network, with sustainable management of the water potential, developed educational and information and communications infrastructure*

### **MEASURES**

- Modernization and updating the existing regional and local roads and construction of new by preparing a technical documentation – in cooperation with the Agency for National Roads and LSGU as holders, within the region;
- Reconstruction, modernization and extending the water supply systems by preparing a technical documentation;
- Reconstruction, modernization and extending systems for waste water treatment by preparing a technical documentation;
- Human resources development in ICT and initiatives for creating an adequate infrastructure in the region;
- Promotion of the educational process for different stakeholders on a regional level;

<b>PRIORITY II</b> <b>LOCATION WITH A DEVELOPED AND MODERN ROAD NETWORK,</b> <b>WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER POTENTIAL,</b> <b>DEVELOPED EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AND</b> <b>COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>MEASURE II.1 <i>Modernization and updating the existing regional and local roads and construction of new ones by preparing a technical documentation</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>II.1.1 Preparation of a technical documentation for R415 Boshkov Most –Izvor (connection to M4 and M5)</b>	Agency for National Roads Bureau for Regional Development	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Budget of RM	2010 -2011	Prepared preliminary design Prepared basic design Revised design Number of applications for providing funds for construction Funds provided for construction
	<b>II.1.2 Preparation of a technical documentation for R423 Trebenishta – Livoishta –Kosel (connection to M4 and M5)</b>	LSGU Agency for National Roads Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Budget of RM	2010 -2011	Prepared preliminary design Prepared basic design Revised design Number of applications for providing funds for construction Funds provided for construction
	<b>II.1.3 Preparation of a technical documentation for R410 Centar Zhupa-Glabochica</b>	LSGU Agency for National Roads Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Budget of RM	2010 -2011	Prepared preliminary design Prepared basic design Revised design Number of applications for providing funds for construction Funds provided for construction
<b>II.1.4 Study for coverage of the region with a road infrastructure</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications	2011-2012	Prepared study	



<b>PRIORITY II</b> <b>LOCATION WITH A DEVELOPED AND MODERN ROAD NETWORK, WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER POTENTIAL, DEVELOPED EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b><i>MEASURE II.2 Reconstruction, modernization and extending the water supply systems by preparing a technical documentation</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>II.2.1 Study for coverage of the region with a road infrastructure water supply infrastructure</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2011 -2012	Prepared study Number of prepared projects
	<b>II.2.2 Technical documentation for extending the water supply systems</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2010 -2012	Prepared projects Funds provided for intervention Total length of the extended water pipeline network for which funds have been provided
	<b>II.2.3 Technical documentation for construction of new water supply systems</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2010 -2012	Prepared projects Funds provided for construction Total length of the water pipeline network for which funds have been provided
<b>II.2.4 Technical documentation for replacement of asbestos water supply pipes</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2010 -2012	Prepared projects Funds provided for reconstruction Total length of the water supply pipes for which funds have been provided	

<b>PRIORITY II</b> <b>LOCATION WITH A DEVELOPED AND MODERN ROAD NETWORK,</b> <b>WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER POTENTIAL,</b> <b>DEVELOPED EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AND</b> <b>COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b><i>MEASURE II.3 Reconstruction, modernization and extending systems for waste water treatment by preparing a technical documentation</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>II.3.1 Study for coverage of the region with a utilities infrastructure</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal utilities enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2011 - 2012	Prepared study Number of prepared projects
	<b>II.3.2 Technical documentation for finalizing and completing the existing collecting systems</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal utilities enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2010 - 2015	Prepared projects Provided funds for intervention Total length of the finalized collecting network for which funds have been provided
<b>II.3.3 Technical documentation for construction of new collecting systems with treatment plants</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Public municipal utilities enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2010 - 2015	Prepared projects Provided funds for intervention Total length of a new collecting network for which funds have been provided	

<b>PRIORITY II</b> <b>LOCATION WITH A DEVELOPED AND MODERN ROAD NETWORK, WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER POTENTIAL, DEVELOPED EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b><i>MEASURE II.4 Human resources development in ICT and initiatives for creating an adequate infrastructure in the region</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b> Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>II.4.1 Trainings for using ICT</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Employment Agency Educational institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Information Society	2011 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of trained persons Number of newly employed persons
	<b>II.4.2 Raising the public awareness and citizens participation through ICT</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Employment Agency Educational institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Information Society	2011 -2015	Number of public forums, lectures held Number of participants at the forums and lectures Number of citizens that use e-municipalities system for participation
	<b>II.4.3 Creation of an electronic database for the region</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Concerned parties from the region	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications	2012 -2015	Quality and quantity of the contents in the bases Frequency in updating Degree of data utilization by the municipalities
<b>II.4.4 Connecting the e-municipalities in the region</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU ALSU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications UNDP	2012 -2015	Degree of e-municipalities connectivity Degree of utilization Number of citizens and enterprises using the e-services Number of submitted requests by the citizens	

<b>PRIORITY II</b> <b>LOCATION WITH A DEVELOPED AND MODERN ROAD NETWORK,</b> <b>WITH SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER POTENTIAL,</b> <b>DEVELOPED EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION AND</b> <b>COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>MEASURE II.5 Promotion of the educational process for different stakeholders on a regional level</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>II.5.1 Providing prerequisites for larger participation of the population in the formal and informal education and lifelong learning</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Educational institutions Employment Agencies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Education and Science TEMPUS ERASUMS LEONARDO	2011 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of public events held Number of campaigns Number of participants in public events Number of feedbacks from the events and campaigns that were held Number of published and distributed materials
	<b>II.5.2 Trainings for participation in the EU educational exchange programmes</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Educational institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Education and Science TEMPUS ERASUMS LEONARDO	2012 -2015	Number of trainings Number of stakeholders Number of participants Number of published materials
	<b>II.5.3 Mediation in procedures for scholarships for the exchange programmes</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Educational institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Education and Science TEMPUS ERASUMS LEONARDO	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of students that were awarded a scholarship Number of successfully graduated students
<b>II.5.3 Study for the need of expert staff in the economy within the region</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Business entities Educational institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2013 - 2014	Prepared study Number of included entities Number of projects Number of contracts for cooperation between educational and business entities	

### **PRIORITY III**

*3. Agribusiness conceived in a modern concept of production of agricultural products recognizable for the region and sustainable rural development based on modern knowledge and technologies*

### **MEASURES**

- Creating a modern and productive agricultural sector;
- Providing coherence of the space by protecting the highly productive agricultural land from uncontrolled transformation into construction land;
- Revitalization of the rural regions by improving the living conditions;
- Improving the quality of life in the smaller municipalities and the rural environments by providing larger coverage with services and cultural events;

<b>PRIORITY III</b> <b>AGRIBUSINESS CONCEIVED IN A MODERN CONCEPT OF</b> <b>PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS RECOGNIZABLE FOR</b> <b>THE REGION AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON</b> <b>MODERN KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<b>MEASURE III.1 Creating a modern and productive agricultural sector</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>III.1.1 Creating database for economies and individual producers</b> <i>Land, production, export-import</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Number of stakeholders Prepared database Number of included entities Number of published materials
	<b>III.1.2 Training for management in the sector</b> <i>Trainings for management and harmonization with the EU standards</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of published materials
	<b>III.1.3 Introduction of standards and certificates and protected products with geographical origin</b> <i>Trainings</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of conducted trainings Number of acquired certificates Number of protected products Number of published materials
<b>III.1.4 Instigation and promotion of the production of organic food</b> <i>Registering the areas and farms</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of conducted trainings Number of started businesses Number of participants Number of published materials	

	<b>III.1.5 Organization and visit of fairs and festivals of organic food</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2012 -2013	Number of stakeholders Number of organized fairs and festivals Number of visited fairs and festivals
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIORITY III</b>  <b>AGRIBUSINESS CONCEIVED IN A MODERN CONCEPT OF</b>  <b>PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS</b>  <b>RECOGNIZABLE FOR THE REGION AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL</b>  <b>DEVELOPMENT BASED ON MODERN KNOWLEDGE AND</b>  <b>TECHNOLOGIES</b></p>	<b>MEASURE III.2 Providing coherence of the space by protecting the highly productive agricultural land from uncontrolled transformation into construction land</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>III.2.1 Promoting actions for recultivation of the land</b> <i>Registering the regions</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of included entities Recultivated land Number of published materials
	<b>III.2.2 Promoting actions for control of the fertility of the land</b> <i>Trainings</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual agricultural producers and economies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of undertaken measures Number of published materials
	<b>III.2.3 Increasing the efficiency of LSGU in the sector</b> <i>Protection of the agricultural land</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of conducted trainings Number of participants Number of published materials



<b>PRIORITY III</b> <b>AGRIBUSINESS CONCEIVED IN A MODERN CONCEPT OF</b> <b>PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS</b> <b>RECOGNIZABLE FOR THE REGION AND SUSTAINABLE</b> <b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON MODERN KNOWLEDGE</b> <b>AND TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<b>MEASURE III.3 Revitalization of the rural regions by improving the living conditions</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>III.3.1 Promoting the rural tourism</b> <i>Agritourism and ecotourism</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU with rural character Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of included entities Number of realized trainings Number of started businesses Number of published materials
	<b>III.3.2 Marking of the cultural and natural landmarks in the regional areas</b> <i>Signalization and mapping</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU LSGU with rural character Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of undertaken measures Number of marked locations Number of published materials
	<b>III.3.3 Pedestrian and bicycle lanes in rural areas</b> <i>Preparation of a technical documentation</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU with rural character Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of undertaken measures Number of prepared elaborates Number of marked locations Number of published materials
<b>III.3.4 Preparing brochures, maps and books for landmarks in the rural areas</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU with rural character Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of undertaken measures Number of prepared brochures, maps and books Number of published materials	

<b>PRIORITY III</b> <b>AGRIBUSINESS CONCEIVED IN A MODERN CONCEPT OF</b> <b>PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS</b> <b>RECOGNIZABLE FOR THE REGION AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL</b> <b>DEVELOPMENT BASED ON MODERN KNOWLEDGE AND</b> <b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<b>MEASURE III.4 Improving the quality of life in the smaller municipalities and the rural environments by providing larger coverage with services and cultural events</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>Improving the local infrastructure</b> <i>Water pipeline network, sewerages (technical documentation)</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU with rural character Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of included entities Number of prepared technical documentation
	<b>III.4.2 Organizing the rural areas according to an EU model</b> <i>Trainings for Less favourable area</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of undertaken measures Number of trainings Number of visitors Number of published materials
	<b>III.4.3 Organizing cultural events and other manifestations in the rural areas</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of organized events Number of participants at manifestations Number of visitors Number of published materials
<b>III.4.4 Mediation in procedures for obtaining funds from EU funds</b> <i>Trainings</i>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Local communities	Bureau for Regional Development EU funds	2012 -2015	Number of stakeholders Number of organized trainings Number of obtained grants	

## **PRIORITY IV**

- 4. Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure*

### **MEASURES**

- Optimal usage of the natural and cultural and historical heritage in function of the tourism development;
- Creating recognisability and protection of the cultural and historical heritage and the natural treasure in the areas protected by law;
- Initiatives for developing different types of tourism – lake, mountain, village, spa, religion, agricultural, healthcare, sport, transit, as well as other alternative forms of tourism (speleological, hunting, etc.);
- Human resources development in the travel agencies and tourism associations, as well as initiatives for their networking;
- Promotional activities for representing the touristic potentials of the region;
- Improving the utilization of the hotel and catering capacities and other type of resources for raising the degree of tourism development;

<b>PRIORITY IV</b> <b>Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure</b>	<b><i>MEASURE IV.1 Optimal usage of the natural an cultural and historical heritage in function of the tourism development</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>IV.1.1 Study for the natural and cultural heritage as a basis for creating integrated touristic contents</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Institutions in the culture and tourism area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2013	Number of determined paths with natural and cultural contents Number of users of the determined contents Number of published materials
	<b>IV.1.2 Creating selective tourist arrangements</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Travel agencies Tourist chambers and associations of tourist guides	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2013 -2015	Number of travel agencies' programmes Number of realized tourist arrangements Number of tourists and visitors, users of the arrangements
	<b>IV.1.3 Regional networking of the business entities from the area of the culture and natural heritage in the tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy Travel agencies Caterers Cultural institutions Institutions from the area of the nature protection	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Number of stakeholders for networking Number of categorized facilities Activated cultural and natural contents
<b>IV.1.4 Organizing celebrations and manifestations with cultural and natural contents and traditional values</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Cultural and art associations	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture	2012 -2015	Number of organized manifestations Number of included entities Number of visitors Number of participants in cultural and art associations	

<b>PRIORITY IV</b> <b>Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure</b>	<b>MEASURE IV.2 Creating recognizability and protection of the cultural and historical heritage and the natural treasure in the areas protected by law</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>IV.2.1 Inventorization, systematization and categorization of the natural and cultural heritage in the region in function of the tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Number of branded natural and cultural sites and facilities Number of users of the determined contents Number of published materials
	<b>IV.2.2 Signalization and marking of the protected sites and facilities</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Tourist chambers and associations of tourist guides National park Galichica Bureau for Protection of Cultural Monuments	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2012 -2015	Number of marked sites and facilities Number of travel agencies users of the protected areas Number of visitors
<b>IV.2.3 Development of branded ethnographic values in the rural development area</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Travel agencies Caterers Cultural institutions Institutions from the area of the nature protection	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2012 -2015	Number of visitors Number of sold products	

	<b>IV.2.4 Support of the branded products from the rural environment</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture	2012 -2015	Number of branded products
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<b>PRIORITY IV</b> Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure	<b>MEASURE IV.3 Initiatives for developing different types of tourism – lake, mountain, village, spa, religion, agricultural, healthcare, sport, transit, as well as other alternative forms of tourism (speleological, hunting, etc.)</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>IV.3.1 Study for the opportunities for development of selective types of tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Tourist chambers	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012-2013	Published publication for tourist valorisation of the selective types of tourism that was carried out Number of the study's users Realized forms of selective tourism development Number of created arrangements with selective tourist activities
	<b>IV.3.2 Creating tourist programmes of selective types of tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Tourist chambers and associations of tourist guides Bureau for Protection of Cultural Monuments Travel agencies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Number of travel agencies' users of the programmes Number of publications with created programmes Number of tourist arrangements
<b>IV.3.3 Support of the initiatives for forming associations for development of selective types of tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy Travel agencies Caterers Cultural institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	2013 -2015	Number of formed associations Number of members of the associations Number of signed memoranda of cooperation	

		Institutions from the area of the nature protection			
	<b>IV.3.4 Organizing events on the tourism market of the tourist offer from the area of selective types of tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Travel agencies Caterers	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture	2013 -2015	Number of concluded contracts for using services in the selective types of tourism Number of tourists Realized revenues



<b>PRIORITY IV</b> Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure	<b>MEASURE IV.4 Human resources development in the travel agencies and tourism associations, as well as initiatives for their networking</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b> Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>IV.4.1 Recording and systematization of the human resources</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Tourist chambers	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2010 -2015	Published records Number and structure of the available human resources
<b>IV.4.2 Creating programmes for training and human resources development</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Travel agencies Educational and scientific institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2013 -2015	Number of programmes for training of the human resources Number of programmes for human resources development Number of participants in the programmes	

	<p><b>IV.4.3 Creating cooperation programmes with related organizations inside and outside the region</b></p>	<p>Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy Travel agencies Caterers Cultural institutions Institutions from the area of the nature protection</p>	<p>Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy</p>	<p>2013 -2015</p>	<p>Number of formed cooperation programmes Number of joint ventures on the tourism market Number of signed memoranda of cooperation Number of realized inter-border projects</p>
	<p><b>Improvement of the human resources for networking through further training and permanent education</b></p>	<p>Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Travel agencies Caterers Educational and scientific institutions</p>	<p>Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture Cultural and art associations</p>	<p>2013 -2015</p>	<p>Number of human resources that have received further training Number of realized training programmes Number of realized trainings</p>

<b>PRIORITY IV</b> Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure	<b>MEASURE IV.5 Promotional activities for representing the touristic potentials of the region</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>IV.5.1 Creating programmes for promotional activities</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Tourist chambers	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Published programmes
	<b>IV.5.2 Issuing catalogues, prospectuses, leaflets and other printed material and promotion via the media</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Travel agencies Educational and scientific institutions The catering	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Number of published catalogues, prospectuses, leaflets and other printed materials Number of appearances in the media Number of participants in the programmes
<b>IV.5.3 Appearance on fair exhibitions and manifestations</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy Travel agencies Caterers	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2012 -2015	Number of visited fairs and manifestations Number of participants at the manifestations Number of signed memoranda of cooperation Number of sold arrangements	

		Cultural institutions Institutions from the area of the nature protection			
	<b>IV.5.4 Organizing visits of tour operators, journalists and scientific and expert workers</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Travel agencies Caterers Educational and scientific institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture	2013 -2015	Number of organized visits Number of journalists and other visitors

**PRIORITY IV**

Attractive touristic destination with rich and integrated touristic offer, based on sustainable utilization and protection of the cultural and natural treasure

**MEASURE IV.6 Improving the utilization of the hotel and catering capacities and other type of resources for raising the degree of tourism development**

ACTIVITIES	Holders of the activities	Financing sources	Time	Indicators
<b>IV.6.1 Organizing conferences for improving the cooperation between the travel agencies and the catering sector</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Tourist chambers Travel agencies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Number of conferences Number of participants Number of concluded contracts
<b>IV.6.2 Creating programmes for animations in the hotel and restaurant capacities</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Travel agencies Educational and scientific institutions The catering	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Culture Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2013 -2015	Number of published programmes Number of hotels and restaurants users of the programmes
<b>IV.6.3 Organizing tourist activities (congresses, symposiums, manifestations) in the off-season period</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Individual producers and economy Travel agencies Caterers Cultural institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy	2013 -2015	Number of organized manifestations Number of participants at manifestations
<b>IV.6.4 Creating programmes for an offer with a higher quality in the catering</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Agency for promotion and development of tourism Travel agencies Caterers Educational and scientific institutions	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Culture	2013 -2015	Number of published programmes Number of programmes' users

## **PRIORITY V**

5. *Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy*

## **MEASURES**

- Protection of the biodiversity;
- Protection of the flora and fauna in the national parks and protected areas;
- Ensuring the implementation of the standards for protection of the air, water and soil quality;
- Ensuring the implementation of the standards during the discharge of chemical and other pollutants in the surface and underground waters;
- Support of the activities for proclaiming the new national parks and protected areas;
- Integrated solid waste management;
- Promotion of the solar energy usage;
- Promotion of the biomass usage for energy production;
- Using the energy from the geothermal sources for economic purposes;
- Improving the utilization of the vast water potential with which the region disposes;

<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b>MEASURE V.1 Protection of the biodiversity</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.1.1 Identification and monitoring of the preferential species, habitats and genetic components of the biodiversity</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau National park Galichica	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Publication of the identification Report on the monitoring activities
	<b>V.1.2 Creating programmes for research and monitoring of the consequences from the industry, agriculture, forestry and tourism</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2014 -2015	Number of published elaborate and studies Monitoring reports
	<b>V.1.3 Maintenance and rehabilitation of the biodiversity</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area Inspection bodies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2014 -2015	Report on the inspection services
<b>V.1.4 Creating a programme for partnership of the social and economic sector and the biodiversity</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2014 -2015	Number of published programmes Number of programmes' users	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIORITY V</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b></p>	<b>MEASURE V.2 Protection of the flora and fauna in the national parks and protected areas</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.2.1 Support for proclaiming Jablanica for a national park</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau National park Galichica LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2010 -2015	The Law on Proclaiming Jablanica for a National Park
	<b>V.2.2 Creating strategic documents for protection of the flora and fauna in the national parks</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2013 -2015	Published strategies Adopted Rulebooks and Decisions
	<b>V.2.3 Organizing campaigns for raising the awareness for the meaning of the protected types of the flora and fauna</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area NGO sector LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2013 -2015	Number of held conferences Number of printed promotional materials Number of appearances in the media
<b>V.2.4 Marking and locating the sites and samples of the protected flora and fauna</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2013 -2015	Number of determined and marked sites Number of protected samples of flora and fauna	



<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b>MEASURE V.3 Ensuring the implementation of the standards for protection of the air, water and soil quality</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.3.1 Creating programmes for increasing the air quality</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Published programme Reduced quantity of harmful gasses in the air Report of the inspection bodies
	<b>V.3.2 Integral water resources management</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Published strategies Adopted Rulebooks and Decisions
	<b>V.3.3 Creating a programme for protection of the soil from pollution</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area Centre for Promotion of the Agriculture LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Published programme
<b>V.3.4 Creating a programme for protection from erosions</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Published programme	

<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b><i>MEASURE V.4 Ensuring the implementation of the standards during the discharge of chemical and other pollutants in the surface and underground waters</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b> Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.4.1 Creating management activities for application of the standards during discharge of chemical and other pollutants in the surface and underground waters</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Published programme Reduced quantity of harmful gasses in the water Report of the inspection bodies
	<b>V.4.2 Organizing campaigns fro application of the international standards during the discharge of the waters</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Number of participants Number of held conferences Published programmes Appearances in the media
<b>V.4.3 Support of studies and expertise for construction of treatment plants pursuant to the standards</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area Agency for Support of the Agriculture	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	2012 -2015	Published programme	

	<b>V.4.4 Monitoring of the standards application</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Inspection bodies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Published programme Report of the inspection bodies
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<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b><i>MEASURE V.5 Support of the activities for proclaiming the new national parks and protected areas</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.5.1 Study fir using the resources (tourism, forest, agricultural) in terms of proclaiming the national park Jablanica</b>	Center for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area National park Galichica LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2012	Published programme Valorized resources
	<b>V.5.2 Creating a programme for differentiation of the protected zones in the national park Jablanica</b>	Center for Development of Southwest Planning Region Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area National park Galichica LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2012	Published programme
	<b>V.5.3 Campaigns at the local population for the meaning of proclaiming the national park</b>	Center for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Hydrobiological Bureau Scientific institutes form the environmental area Center for Promotion of the Agriculture National park Galichica	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2011 -2012	Published programme Number of held conferences Number of appearances in the media Printed promotional programmes
<b>V.5.4 Keeping records and systematization of the pollutants that cause the degradation in the national park Jablanica</b>	Center for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Inspection bodies National park Galichica LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2011 -2012	Published records Report of the inspection bodies	

<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b><i>MEASURE V.6 Integrated solid waste management</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b> Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.6.1 Improving the primary waste collection system</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Scientific institutes form the environmental area Public utility services enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Published programme
	<b>V.6.2 Programme for increasing the number of containers, street litter bins and other equipment</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Scientific institutes form the environmental area Public utility services enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Published programme
	<b>V.6.3 Establishing a monitoring and supervision mechanism for the collection and transport of waste</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Public utility services enterprises Inspection bodies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Published programme for monitoring and supervision Reports of the inspection bodies
<b>V.6.4 Studies for determining and establishing a location for a regional landfill site</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Inspection bodies National park Galichica	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2012 -2015	Publication of the study	

<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b>MEASURE V.7 Promotion of the solar energy usage</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.7.1 Support for installing and using solar systems in the households</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2011 -2015	Number of solar systems in the households
	<b>V.7.2 Creating a programme for using the solar systems in the economy</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Number of solar systems in the economy
	<b>V.7.3 Development programme of the greenhouse food production by applying solar systems</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Number of greenhouses and planted surface
<b>V.7.4 Studies for electrical energy production by using solar systems</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes form the environmental area Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Published study Feed-in tariff	

**PRIORITY V**

**Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy**

<b>MEASURE V.8 Promotion of the biomass usage for energy production</b>				
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>V.8.1 Study for the practical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the central heating in the city regions with biomass</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Published study Interest by the city authorities
<b>V.8.2 Support of the use of biofuel in the industry through pilot projects for replacement of the fossil energy agents</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Realized pilot projects
<b>V.8.3 Creation of business advices and transfer of world experiences in the area of biomass usage</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Holding conferences Number of stakeholders at the conferences
<b>V.8.4 Support of the large users for replacement of the fossil fuels with biofuels</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Number of biofuel users

<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b>MEASURE V.9 Using the energy from the geothermal sources for economic purposes</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.9.1 Study for usage of the geothermal waters</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Published study Interest by the city authorities
	<b>V.9.2 Study for construction of greenhouses with geothermal energy</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area Centre for Promotion of the Agriculture	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Number of subsidized investors
	<b>V.9.3 Support of the spa and sport and recreational centres</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Business Community	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Number of included centres



<b>PRIORITY V</b> <b>Environmentally clean area, with protected water, air and soil, integrated waste management system and sustainable utilization of the renewable sources of energy</b>	<b><i>MEASURE V.10 Improving the utilization of the vast water potential with which the region disposes</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>V.10.1 Study for construction of accumulations for electrical energy production</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Scientific institutes in the energy area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Interest by the investors

## **PRIORITY VI**

- 6. *Developed social infrastructure, with network of efficient services, for a dignified life and decent living standard***

### **MEASURES**

- Reducing the unequal distribution of the population inside the region;
- Creating presumptions for the decrease of the internal migrations towards the urban centres through revitalization of the life in the small municipalities and particularly, the rural environments;
- Affirmation of the advantages for living in the smaller municipalities and rural environments;
- Reducing the high population concentration in the larger urban centres of the region by providing an infrastructure for quality primary and high education, social care and healthcare in the smaller municipalities and particularly, the rural environments;
- Connecting the smaller municipalities and the rural environments with the larger urban centres in mutual economic, educational, social and cultural projects;
- Preparation of a planning documentation for the areas with specific development needs;

<b>PRIORITY VI</b> <b>Developed social infrastructure, with network of efficient services, for a dignified life and decent living standard</b>	<b>MEASURE VI.1 Reducing the unequal distribution o the population inside the region</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>VI.1.1 Supporting projects and institutions from the primary healthcare for improving the reproductive health care and maternity, protection of infants and young children in the municipalities in which there is a depopulation</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Institutions in the healthcare area Social care centres LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Offered projects
	<b>VI.1.2 Creating measures for promotion of the birth rate in the municipalities with depopulation characteristics</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Nongovernmental organizations in the demography area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Adopted measures
<b>VI.1.3 Support of the initiatives for facilitations during construction of kindergartens in the municipalities in which there is a depopulation</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Nongovernmental organizations in the demography area	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Finance Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Interested investors Number of built kindergartens	

	<b>VI.1.4 Supporting campaigns for earlier conclusion of marriages and childbirth</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Social work centres NGO sector	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Published programme Number of campaigns that were held Number of appearances in the media Printed promotional programmes
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**PRIORITY VI  
DEVELOPED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH NETWORK  
OF EFFICIENT SERVICES, FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE AND  
DECENT LIVING STANDARD**

***MEASURE VI.2 Creating presumptions for the decrease of the internal migrations towards the urban centres through revitalization of the life in the small municipalities and particularly, the rural environments***

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>VI.2.1 Creating facilitations for the life and work in the municipalities with migratory characteristics and the rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Social work centres NGO sector	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Published programme Number of campaigns that were held Number of appearances in the media Printed promotional programmes

**PRIORITY VI  
DEVELOPED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH NETWORK OF  
EFFICIENT SERVICES, FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE AND DECENT LIVING  
STANDARD**

<b><i>MEASURE VI.3 Affirmation of the advantages for living in the smaller municipalities and rural environments</i></b>				
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>VI.3.1 Promotion of the advantages for life in the smaller municipalities and rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU NGO	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Published materials Organized conferences Appearance in the media
<b>VI.3.2 Support of the production in the rural environment for the close urban markets</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Interest by the investors
<b>VI.3.3 Supporting the cooperatives in terms of family and friendship closeness in the rural environment</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Interest by the investors
<b>VI.3.4 Support of cultural and sport manifestations in the rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU NGO	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Culture Agency for youth and sport Ministry of Economy Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy IPARD programme	2014-2015	Number of held manifestations Number of participants

**PRIORITY VI  
DEVELOPED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH NETWORK OF  
EFFICIENT SERVICES, FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE AND DECENT LIVING  
STANDARD**

***MEASURE VI.4 Reducing the high population concentration in the larger urban centres of the region by providing an infrastructure for quality primary and high education, social care and healthcare in the smaller municipalities and particularly, the rural environments***

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>VI.4.1 Expertise for infrastructural regulation (with electricity and water supply, regulated streets) in the rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Scientific institutes in the energy area Water economy public enterprises	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Economy IPARD programme	2013 -2015	Prepared and published expertises
<b>VI.4.2 Support of quality education and social and health care in the rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Education and Science Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Ministry of Labour and Social Policy IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Number of institutions Equipping
<b>VI.4.3 Supporting the development of social institutions</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Number of institutions
<b>VI.4.4 Promotion of the employment in the rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU Employment Agencies	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	2014 -2015	Number of employees in the rural environments

<b>PRIORITY VI</b> <b>DEVELOPED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH NETWORK OF EFFICIENT SERVICES, FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE AND DECENT LIVING STANDARD</b>	<b>MEASURE VI.5 Connecting the smaller municipalities and the rural environments with the larger urban centres in mutual economic, educational, social and cultural projects</b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<b>VI.5.1 Policies making for public transport</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region Traffic business sector LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications	2014 -2015	Number of lines Number of departures
	<b>VI.5.2 Projects for regulating the accessible roads to the attractive values</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Economy Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Length of the regulated roads
	<b>VI.5.3 Supporting the initiatives for improving the communications with the undeveloped municipalities and rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications IPARD programme	2014 -2015	Length of the road network
<b>VI.5.4 Support of projects for economic development between the urban and cross border and rural environments</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Economy IPA 2	2014 -2015	Number of realized projects	



<b>PRIORITY VI DEVELOPED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH NETWORK OF EFFICIENT SERVICES, FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE AND DECENT LIVING STANDARD</b>	<b><i>MEASURE VI.6 Preparation of a planning documentation for the areas with specific development needs</i></b>				
	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Holders of the activities</b>	<b>Financing sources</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>VI.6.1 Study for preparation of planning documentation for infrastructural development</b>	Centre for Development of Southwest Planning Region LSGU	Bureau for Regional Development Ministry of Transport and Communications	2014 -2015	Prepared and published study	

## **THIRD PART: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

## **15. Institutional framework for the regional development of the Southwest Planning Region**

On a national level, pursuant to the Law on Equal Regional Development, the main policy holders are the following: The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Council for Equal Regional Development, Ministry of the Local Self-Government and the Bureau for Regional Development.

On a level of the Southwest Planning Region the main holders of the regional development are the following:

Council for Development of the Southwest Planning Region

Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region

Local self-government units included in the region

Other relevant stakeholders in the Southwest Planning Region (the business sector, chambers, associations and citizens' associations).

The Council for Development of the Southwest Planning Region is composed of the mayors of the 13 municipalities (Municipality Vevchani, Municipality Vraneshtica, Municipality Debar, Municipality Debrca, Municipality Drugovo, Municipality Zajas, Municipality Oslomej, Municipality Ohrid, Municipality Kichevo, Municipality Makedonski Brod, Municipality Plasnica, Municipality Struga, Municipality Centar Zhupa) included in the region.

The Council for Development of the Planning Region performs the following activities:

- organizing and coordinating the activities for monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the planning documents for regional development,
- adopting Development Programme of the Planning Region, following a prior consent by the Council for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia,
- adopting an annual action plan for implementation of the Development Programme of the Planning Region,
- establishing an annual list of draft-projects for development of the planning region,
- submitting proposals to the Bureau for Regional Development for identification of the regions with specific development needs within the planning region
- providing coordination of the activities of the local self-government units, citizens' associations, state agencies and institutions within the region acting in the regional development area,
- initiating review of issues concerning the regional development for which it is necessary to coordinate the local self-government units and the partners from the private and civil sector,
- promoting the cross-border cooperation with the regions from other countries based on the common interests and
- carrying out other activities in the regional development area stipulated by law.

The Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region is an expert body performing the following activities:

- preparing a draft-programme for development of the planning region, in cooperation with external experts
- preparing draft-action plan for implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region,
- preparing draft-projects for development of the planning region,
- coordinating the activities related to the implementation of the Development Programme of the Panning Region and realizing the development projects of the planning region,
- preparing an annual report for implementation of the Development Programme of the Panning Region,
- providing information to the stakeholders for the course of the realization of the Development Programme of the Panning Region and other issues concerning the regional development,
- providing expert and technical assistance for the local self-government units during the preparation of their development programmes,
- providing expert services to citizens' associations and other stakeholders for preparation of projects in the regional development area,
- promoting the intermunicipal cooperation within the planning region,
- -implementing projects for promotion of the planning region development, financed by the funds of the European Union and other international sources,
- promoting the development opportunities of the planning region and
- carrying out expert and technical administration activities for the needs of the Council for Development of the Panning Region.

The local self-government units together with the Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region participate in the establishing of the draft regional projects. They are responsible for submitting requests for financing projects for development of the regions with specific development needs and development of the villages located on their territory. In addition, the local self-government units have a vital role in the realization of the development projects of the planning region, and particularly the development projects of the regions with specific development needs of the villages. With the purpose of maximal utilization of the available financial resources for regional development, the local self-government units should realize a high mutual coordination and cooperation during the creation and realization of projects that are significant for the region.

Having regard to the integral multisectoral dimension of the regional development it is necessary to have a solid coordination between the fundamental holders of the regional development policy, as well as the other important stakeholders such as the business sector, various chambers, associations and citizens' associations for harmonizing the policies and activities having a substantial influence over the regional development. Whereby, the purpose of the instruments' implementation is to achieve higher results concerning the sector (economic development,

infrastructure, agrarian sector and the rural development, tourism and culture and social development), on a level of the Southwest Planning Region.

## **16. Financing the regional development**

The realization of the goals envisaged by the programme for development of the Southwest Planning Region is related to the need for providing financial means. Pursuant to the Law on Equal Regional Development (Article 27), as financing sources of the regional development are stated the following:

- The budget of the Republic of Macedonia,
- The budgets of the local self-government units,
- The available EU funds,
- Other international sources,
- Donations and sponsorships from physical and legal entities and
- Other funds stipulated by law.

The law prescribes that funds in the amount of at least 1% of the GDP from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia shall be allocated for promotion of the uniform regional development. The financial means are necessary for the promotion of the planning regions' development and in order to reduce the disparities between the planning regions.

The use of the economic and financial mechanisms for support of the regional development should be pursuant to the principles of solid management coordination of the instruments, partnership, efficiency and effectiveness from the aspect of the costs, transparency, accountability and control. The following principles are particularly important:

- Coordination of the instruments and resources for regional development for their optimal allocation for realizing the objectives of the regional development and
- Efficiency and effectiveness of the instruments regarding the costs justifiability concerning the objectives.

Another factor emphasizing even further the role of the key actors in the regional development is the availability of the financial means from the EU and from other donors for joint cross-border development projects in neighbouring countries. The participation in cross-border projects, as well as developing the ability of the regions to propose quality development projects, to a large extent, may accelerate the development of the planning region (and the local self-government units, correspondingly) and simultaneously to enable creation of a solid institutional basis for successful use of the EU funds prior and particularly following the EU accession. In this context, the IPA programme is particularly important (especially the components 2,3,4 and 5) because a large part of the priority axes from this programme are focused on the support and promotion of the areas substantial for the regional development. Therefore, the provision of the prerequisites for utilization of these funds should be a priority of the holders of the regional development policy.

## **17. Monitoring, assessment and updating of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region**

Monitoring the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is performed by the Council for Development of the Region through the Annual Report on Implementation of the Action plan. This report is prepared by the Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region, which it submits to the Council. The report provides a clear image for the trends of the region's development and simultaneously demonstrates whether the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is being carried out according to the planned dynamics.

Within the monitoring process, the focus should be directed towards the progress in the realization of the objectives and priorities identified in the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, monitoring the economic, infrastructural, agricultural sector and the rural development, tourism and culture, the social and other aspects of the development.

The monitoring the progress in realizing the objectives and priorities of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is carried out through determined indicators. The basic indicators that may serve for measuring the realization of the strategic goals and priorities are given in the Annex of the Programme. On the basis of the stated indicators, as well as other indicators pursuant to the needs, a detailed methodology is developed for monitoring and assessing the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, in order to provide a solid system for measuring the implementation and effects from the realization of the envisaged measures.

The Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is evaluated through a preliminary, ongoing and final assessment. The preliminary evaluation is conducted prior to the beginning of the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, i.e. prior to its submission for adoption by the competent authority. The preliminary evaluation makes an assessment of the coherence and harmonization of the objectives, priorities and measures of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region with the objectives, priorities and measures in the strategic development documents both nationally and on a regional level and in the programme documents for integration of the Republic of Macedonia in EU.

The ongoing assessment of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is carried out in the middle of the period of its implementation. In compliance with the time dimension of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, the current assessment should be carried out in 2012. The current assessment will measure the progress

towards the realization of the strategic goals, priorities and measures and it will evaluate the effects of the measures that were implemented for promotion of the regional development. Furthermore, it will assess the degree of utilization of the financial means, efficiency of the procedures for funds management, as well as the process of monitoring the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region. The goal of the current assessment is to provide relevant information and recommendations for the necessary corrective measures for improving the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region and realization of the envisaged objectives, priorities and measures. On the basis of the results from the current assessment, should it be necessary, there is an update of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region and of the criteria for allocating the funds for regional development.

The final assessment is carried out following the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region. In compliance with the time dimension of the Programme, the final assessment should be carried out in 2015. The final evaluation makes an assessment of the realization degree of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, the fulfilment of the defined objectives and priorities, as well as the achieved effects in view of the regional development promotion. During the final assessment, the focus will be on measuring the advisability, effectiveness and efficiency of the used resources for regional development, particularly regarding their contribution (through the realized projects) for raising the development degree on the planning region level. On the basis of the determined situation, during the final assessment the analyses for the results from the implementation of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region will be sublimated in view of raising the economic, social and territorial cohesion between and within the planning region and there will be an identification of the factors that contributed the most for the achieved results. The analyses from the final assessment should serve as an input during the preparation of the future strategic documents for development.

## **18. Harmonization of the Development Programme with the strategic documents**

The Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is prepared pursuant to the Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia, but also other relevant national strategic documents covering a wide spectrum of the key areas concerning the regional development, such as the economic development, employment, small and medium enterprises development, agriculture and rural development, transport, tourism and physical planning. Moreover, having regard to the orientation and the efforts of the Republic of Macedonia for accession to the European Union, in defining and establishing the medium-term objectives, priorities, measures and instruments for development of the Southwest Planning Region, the goals of the EU cohesive policy and the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy have been taken into consideration.

### **18.1 Strategy for regional development of the Republic of Macedonia**

The national strategy for regional development is used as a basis in the audit of the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, whereas it is adopted by the Macedonian Assembly at the end of September 2009.

The principal strategic goals of the Strategy for the period 2009-2019 are the following:

- 1. Competitive planning regions characterized by dynamic and sustainable development*
- 2. Greater demographic, economic, social and spatial cohesion between and within the planning region in the Republic of Macedonia*

In compliance with these strategic goals in the Development Programme six priority areas have been established: Infrastructure, Economic development, Agriculture and Rural development, Tourism and Cultural heritage, Environment protection and renewable sources of energy, Social development. Whereby, series of measures and instruments have been defined for each of the priorities.

### **18.2 national strategy for sustainable development**

This strategy is based on the principle to provide conditions for economic and social development in the Republic of Macedonia to the largest possible extent within a well protected environment, and without endangering the quality of the environment with responsibility towards the future generations, but also towards the wider international community.

The key objectives of this strategy are the following: Good governance and better policy making; Revenues diversity in the rural regions; Economic prosperity and creating new job positions; Sustainable human settlements; Inter-sectoral policies supporting the society of knowledge; Climate changes and clean energy; Sustainable transport; Natural resources protection and management; Sustainable consumption and production; Social inclusion, demography and migrations;

With the maximum engagement of all potentials in the country, the sustainable development largely depends on the harmonious and synergetic development of the different sectors. This gives a new dimension of the sectoral planning towards integrated planning, i.e. each sector simultaneously is of a vital interest for the remaining sectors, and in the final results it always demonstrates the economic, social and environmental contributions analogously. Therefore the sustainable development is a compulsory element in all planning documents and it refers to all the sectors, and that is also the case with the development programme of the Southwest Planning Region.

### **18.3 National Strategy for Approximation in the Environment**

The national strategy for approximation in the environment is based on a prioritized EU legislation and the ratified international agreements, and it represents a comprehensive framework of the actions with related costs that are necessary for the legal transposition and technical implementation of all 10 sectors in the environment: horizontal legislation, water management, air quality, waste management, control of the industrial pollution and risk management, nature protection, forests, genetically modified organisms and noise.

### **18.4 Strategy for the Energy Development until 2030**

The energy policy in the country is established by the Strategy for the Energy Development and Programme for realization thereof. The fundamental objectives of the energy policy are the following: safe, secure and quality supply of the consumers with electrical energy, natural



gas, thermal energy, geothermal energy, oil and oil derivatives; improving the energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable sources of energy; sustainable development of the energy sources; environment protection from the harmful influences while conducting energy activities.

### **18.5 Strategy for Renewable Sources of Energy**

The Strategy for Utilization of the Renewable Sources of Energy defines the objectives for utilization of the renewable sources of energy and the manners in which such goals are achieved. Whereby, there is a particular emphasis on: the potential of the renewable sources of energy; the feasibility of utilizing those potentials; the determined volume and dynamics for introducing an electrical energy consumption from renewable sources in the energy balance; defining the transitional measures for supporting the utilization of renewable sources of energy through preferential tariffs for preferential electrical energy producers;

### **18.6 Strategy for Energy Efficiency**

The main purpose of this strategy is the following: developing a framework for accelerated adoption of the practices for energy efficiency in a sustainable manner, through implementation of series of programmes and initiatives, which will be focused on the efficiency of the end-users that are connected by the creation of a critical mass of relevant and dedicated professionals, through free of charge counselling and training activities, which will maximize the involvement and the opportunities for the private sector.

### **18.7 National Strategy for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises**

The National Strategy for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) represents a basic direction for realization of the vision, the given objectives and priorities in the area of the entrepreneurship and the small and medium enterprises in a long-term period. It determines the limitations and the problems in this field, and it recommends basic guidelines and measures for their resolving. The strategic goals are the following: increased number of SME; increased employment at the SME; increased contribution of the SME in the creation of the GDP.

The realization of the national strategy is implemented by medium-term programmes, such as the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, which defines specific goals and determined measures and activities for the realization thereof.

### **18.8 National Employment Strategy**

The National Employment Strategy (NES) contains medium-term employment strategies. It includes the main challenges of the labour market, from the aspect of the macroeconomic and microeconomic policies, employment policies and the labour market policy, then the policies from the area of the social insurance and social care, as well as establishing goals and competitive policies for employment. From aspect of the microeconomic policies, two main objectives should be realized: increasing the rates of the real annual growth of GDP by increasing the utilization of the available resources and rising the capacity of the domestic economy and introducing a flat tax thus an increased competitiveness and export will be expected; increasing the employment, by improving the investment and business climate, measures for supporting the business initiatives of the unemployed persons and entrepreneurs in the SME sector and facilitating the transition from informal into formal economy.

The national and regional priorities for acting should be identical to those identified in the audited Lisbon Strategy for growth and job positions, and they are the following: a) attracting and keeping more persons in employment, increasing the workforce offer and modernizing the social care systems; b) improving the adjustability of the workers and the enterprises; c) increasing the investments in human capital through better education and skills.

### **18.9 National Transport Strategy**

This strategy refers to the period 2007-2017 and it determines the necessary reforms that should be implemented in the transport sector. The main objectives of the National Transport Strategy are the following: economic growth for construction, improving, managing and maintaining the transport services, infrastructure and networks for obtaining a maximal efficiency; social development by connecting the distant and undeveloped communities and increasing the accessibility of the transport network; environment protection and improving the healthcare by building and investing in the public transport and other types of efficient transport that reduces the emission and consumption of resources and energy.

### **18.10 Law on Public Roads**

In distinguishing the competences in the domain of the road infrastructure, Article 20 and 21 from the Law on Public Roads have been taken into account. The provisions of this law practically determine the measures and activities in the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, which may actually be implemented without mixing of the competences that are national or local. The aforementioned Articles are referring to the Agency for National Roads that is competent for the planning, financing, construction, reconstruction, maintenance and protection of the national and regional roads. Notably, the agency has the following competences: performing investment works in the public roads area; cession of the works to relevant enterprises concerning the design, construction and reconstruction of the public roads and the facilities thereof; organizing preparation of studies and projects in the area of the public roads and facilities thereof; determining opinions and standpoints for principal issues from the public roads area that are being discussed; carrying out investment and technical supervision over the construction, reconstruction, maintaining and protection of the public roads and conducts technical examination of the investment maintenance works that were carried out;

Due to the aforementioned the measures in the programme within the road infrastructure domain that pass through the region are largely limited.

### **18.11 EU Cohesion Policy and Lisbon Strategy**

Having regard to the orientation of the Republic of Macedonia for accession to the European Union, in defining the strategic goals and priorities in the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region, the goals of the EU cohesive policy and the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy have been taken into consideration. The EU cohesive policy promotes the economic convergence between the regions, raising the competitiveness and employment and promotion of the cross-border cooperation and the cooperation between the regions. The Lisbon Strategy aims at “making the EU the most competitive and the most dynamic economy in the world, based on knowledge, with capacity for sustainable economic growth with more and better working places and a greater social cohesion”, which principally signifies larger investments in innovations and development, raising the human capital level

in the EU Member States and promoting the creation of new job positions through investments.

Although the EU cohesive policy and the Lisbon Strategy in the given timeframe do not refer directly to the applicant countries for accession to the EU, the observance thereof is significant for the future membership of the Republic of Macedonia in the EU. Despite that, the usage of the EU pre-accession assistance via the IPA funds is vitally important, particularly the components that have a role in promoting the regional development. In that contexts, the IPA Component 2 – Cross-border cooperation, Component 3 - Regional development, Component 4 - Human resources development and Component 5 - Rural development (IPARD) are particularly important.

In defining the instruments for implementation of the measures, besides the national financing sources, the available funds from the aforementioned IPA components intended to be used in the Republic of Macedonia have also been taken into account.

## **19. Strategic assessment of the influence over the environment**

The Decree on the strategies, plans and programmes has entered into force from the end of 2007, including the changes thereof, for which a procedure for assessment of their influence over the environment and human life and health is carried out compulsorily. Whereas the Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is a medium-term planning document, pursuant to the aforementioned Decree, a strategic assessment is carried out in compliance with the given methodology.

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide a high level of environment protection, but also to contribute in the integration of the environmental principles during the preparation of the development documents and projects and their review, whereby the emphasis is placed on the promotion of the sustainable development.

Analysis of the Development Programme is made in coordination with the Centre for Development of the Southwest Planning Region, whereby the final result of that analysis is to prepare a strategic assessment of the reviewed Development Programme. The engaged experts have prepared the strategic assessment pursuant to the Decree. The non-technical summary is presented at the end of the strategic assessment document.

The Development Programme of the Southwest Planning Region is a medium-term planning document for the period 2010-2015. The first part of the Programme contains sectoral analyses of the Southwest Planning Region, whereas the second part contains a regional SWOT, vision, strategic goals, priorities, measures and instruments for their implementation.

The main strategic goals of the Development Programme are the following:

- 1. Competitive planning region both nationally and on an international level, characterized by rapid, dynamic and sustainable development***
- 2. Social, economic and spatial cohesion between the urban and rural municipalities within the region, with optimal utilization of its specific particularities***

The Development Programme is harmonized with all the relevant national strategies, programmes and documents. Primarily, it is harmonized with the Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia, that is a higher planning document and for which a strategic assessment has been made. Pursuant to the Decree on Strategic Assessment, the report on the strategic assessment of the environment for the lower document, in this case

the Programme, contains information harmonized with the data from the strategic assessment of the higher planning document, which in the specific case is the Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019, in order to avoid doubling the assessment of the influence over the environment and the human life and health.

The initial strategic assessment of the influence over the environment was conducted in the following manner:

- **Defining the priority measures** and a clear identification for their understanding.
- **The assessment of the proposed priority measures** was made with a quality description of the positive i.e. negative effects that were caused by each priority and measure (a relevance matrix). Because the contents, purpose and implementation of the proposed activities in the Development Programme are widely represented, sometimes there it was difficult to assess the possible influences over the environment. The possible effects over the relevant issues and indicators were analyzed for each measure separately in a manner that enabled formulation of alternative proposals.
- **The proposals for reducing the influence and recommendations** should be carried out through a programme document that basically will aim at reducing the foreseen negative influences over the environment.

Table 1: Relevance matrix

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Explaining the degree</b>
A	No influence/The influence can be positive
B	Insignificant influence
C	Insignificant influence (due to implementing measures for reducing the influence)
D	Significant influence
E	Corrosive influence
X	It is not possible to determine the influence

## 19.1 Initial assessment of the influence of the priority measures over the environment

Priority/measure		Significant influence	Influence					Degree
			Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	Permanent	Temporary	
<b><u>Full priorities</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising the capacities for capacities planning and realization of the development</li> <li>• Creating competitive advantages in the region</li> <li>• Developing a contemporary and modern infrastructure</li> <li>• Promotion of the economic growth</li> </ul>	Increased usage of the land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
		Increased noise pollution	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	B
		Increased air pollution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	C
		Soil pollution	✓	-	✓	-	✓	B
		Increased water consumption	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	C
		Waste generation	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	C
		Protection and revitalization of the cultural heritage (positive effect)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A (positive)
		Accessibility, awareness and use in educational purposes (positive influence)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A (positive)
		Natural resources consumption (construction material)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	B
		Increased pressure of the National parks and protected areas	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	C
		Increased awareness for preserving the nature and improved management of the visitors in the protected areas (positive influence)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	A (positive)
Increased waste water quantities	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	C		

Priority/measure		Significant influence	Influence					Degree
			Direct	Indirect	Cumulative	Permanent	Temporary	
<p><b><u>Priorities from the aspect of preparing development projects</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising the degree of social development</li> <li>• Environment protection</li> <li>• Optimal use and valorisation of the natural resources and the energy potentials</li> <li>• Construction of functional spatial structures for enhanced integration of the urban with the rural environments</li> </ul>	Increased usage of the land	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	
	Increased noise pollution	-	✓	✓	-	✓	B	
	Increased air pollution	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
	Soil pollution	-	✓	✓	-	✓	B	
	Increased water consumption	-	✓	✓	✓	-	C	
	Waste generation	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
	Protection and revitalization of the cultural heritage (positive effect)	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	A (positive)	
	Accessibility, awareness and use in educational purposes (positive influence)	-	✓	✓	-	✓	A (positive)	
	Natural resources consumption (construction material)	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	B	
	Increased pressure of the National parks and protected areas	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	
	Increased awareness for preserving the nature and improved management of the visitors in the protected areas (positive influence)	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	A (positive)	
	Increased waste water quantities	-	✓	✓	-	✓	C	

## 19.2 Proposed measures for reducing the influence

Issues		Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)	Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Environment	Climate changes	<i>Reducing the emission of greenhouse gases</i>	<b>MR I</b> Implementation and promotion of the public transport systems	The areas in which the projects will be realized are poorly interconnected by public transport thus limiting the mobility of the vehicles' owners and increasing the traffic pollution. In this manner, the mobility will be increased. This measure is feasible in separate project areas and it is strongly related to the employment, education and tourism.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the MLS Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning - MEPP and Ministry of Transport and Communications
			Implementation and promotion of the public transport systems in tourist areas	The largest part of the tourist areas lack a public transport system, hence most tourists come by vehicles, and those without their own transport are limited in the sightseeing of the beauties. This measure is feasible in areas with strong tourism sector such as the SWPR.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the MLS MEPP and MTC
	Air	<i>Reaching target values for NOx, SO2, PM10, NO2 and PB, CO as well as for benzene</i>	Supporting concepts for innovative solutions for movement	On a local level, the mobility can be supported and increased in various innovative manners: from promoting the bicycle use to minibus public transport or collective transport by automobiles.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the MLS MEPP and MTC
			<b>P</b> All projects containing activities for collection of a large group of people (cultural events, promoting the nature protection etc.) should have provided public transport for the participants as one of the key activities	Each well promoted event attracts a large number of visitors/participants. In order to reduce the influence over the pollution, emission of greenhouse gases and parking, public transport should be provided for the visitors of such events or an option for using/combining various transport means (train and automobile, safe bicycle parking, etc.).	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development

Issues		Objectives for environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)	Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Water	<i>Good quality of the surface and underground waters in compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2015</i>	<b>MR I</b>	All the new buildings should have a system for waste water processing, i.e. to be connected to a sewage system with treatment facilities	In case of establishing a new infrastructure with the design, it must have an adequate waste water treatment. If there are no treatment possibilities in the entire area, the design must have a mini treatment plant for waste water. This measure is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for development of SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
			Innovative solutions for waste water treatment in distant areas without sewage systems	Most designs will be located in areas where there are no conditions and infrastructure for waste water collection and treatment. The promotion of innovative solutions in such case (micro treatment plants for waste water, public private partnerships for waste water treatment plants and waste waters collection) will largely contribute for a sustainable development of the project areas.	Centre for development of SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
		<b>P</b>	Promotion of the ecoagriculture	Most of the project areas are rural areas, with the agriculture as their biggest source for pollution of the surface and underground waters. The promotion of the ecoagriculture will reduce the pollution and increase the revenues for the farmers, particularly through the activities and connections to the tourism (promotion of local dishes and products to the tourists). The recommendation is feasible in all project areas.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with MLS, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy -MAFWE



Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
	<i>Clean lake water</i>	<b>MR I</b>	All the new buildings should have a system for waste water processing, i.e. to be connected to sewage systems with treatment facilities	as aforementioned (see MRI for underground waters)	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MT
			Innovative solutions for waste water treatment in distant areas without sewage systems	as aforementioned (see MRI for underground waters)	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
	<i>Good water from the water supply systems</i>	<b>MR I</b>	All the new buildings should have a system for waste water processing, i.e. to be connected to sewage systems with treatment facilities	as aforementioned (see MRI for underground waters)	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
			Innovative solutions for waste water treatment in distant areas without sewage systems	as aforementioned (see MRI for underground waters)	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
	<i>Security and safety of the water quantities necessary for meeting the needs</i>	<b>MR I</b>	Sufficient water quantities for drinking should be available prior to the promotion of the tourism development in the area	The tourism is a sector that depends on the good water quality and it influences to a large extent the increase of its consumption. The development projects of the tourism should be developed solely if they are located in areas with a sufficient drinking water quantity concerning the potential development of the area, or to contain activities for research and use of new water sources. This measure is feasible in all project areas and all types of tourist projects.	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC

Issues		Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
				Minimizing the interventions of the river beds and lake shores (without construction along the river beds and lake shores)	The infrastructure development envisaged within the of SWPR Development Programme must not influence over or “interfere” with the natural water flows and the habitats along them. Therefore, the development of the new infrastructure should be located farther from the river beds and lake shores. The support will be enabled only for a “soft” infrastructure (camps, sidewalks, etc.) that stimulates a sustainable use of the river and lake shores. This measure is feasible for all types of projects.	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
	Noise	<i>Reducing the part of the population that is exposed to noise</i>	<b>MR I</b>	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
			<b>P</b>	The efficient planning of the land utilization for different purposes (separating the areas for living from the tourism areas or the areas for open-space events)	The projects stimulating potentially noisy activities, events or infrastructure should be adequately located for the purpose of not disturbing the residents and visitors in the area. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with MLS

Issues		Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)	Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism	
				The use of alternative water sources (rainwater) and waste water recycling	The drinking water is frequently used for purposes where lower quality water can be used (irrigation, technological processes, etc.). For those purposes, designs causing a decrease of the drinking water usage should be developed. This measure is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
				Increasing the public awareness for the usage and quality of the drinking water	In the areas with a shortage of drinking water, activities have to be done for raising the public awareness for each project that triggers large water quantities, particularly in the tourism sector. The innovative activities for raising the public awareness should be an integral part of each project of that type.	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC
			P	Introducing clean technologies, technologies for saving and preserving the water, establishing closed systems	The sustainable development of the project areas can be achieved by developing projects for promotion of networking of small and medium enterprises – SME, exchange of experiences and transfer of technologies in the area of clean technologies or technologies for water saving. This recommendation is feasible for all project areas and for all projects regarding the SME, technology, tourism, education and research	Bureau for Regional Development in cooperation with the Centre for SWPR development
		<i>Improving the hydro-morphological characteristics of the fresh water source</i>	MR I	Support of such types of river tourism that have a minimal influence over the morphological characteristics	The tourist projects that will be developed during the implementation of the Programme (water sports – both river and lake) should not include construction of “hard” infrastructure, but only small changes of the water flows (for instance, establishing entry points for kayak, canoe or rafts) and solely if that is necessary. This measure is feasible in all project areas and all types of projects.	Centre for development SWPR in cooperation with MLS, MEPP and MTC

Issues		Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)	Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Resources	<i>The rational use and protection of the natural resources (earth, ores and fossil fuels)</i>	MR I	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	Support of investments with improved use of the existing infrastructure	Projects focusing on the restoration, reconstruction and revitalization of the existing infrastructure (buildings, supply systems, technology) should be developed. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			Unused factory premises and neglected areas should be recommended as locations for the new construction	Projects focusing on the construction of new facilities at locations that are no longer in use (for instance, desolated factories and mines) should be developed. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			Incorrect development if the urban settlements should not be supported	The projects envisaged within the Programme should be focused on activities within the settlements, in cities and in villages (except in case the activities are related to the natural resources that are outside the settlements). All construction undertakings and new facilities should be directed away from the agricultural land. Before planning the project it should be checked whether the location is suitable for the proposed intent. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development

Issues		Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
				Use of alternative energy sources	The Programme should be envisaged for implementation of projects based on the increase of alternative energy sources (solar energy for water heating in the tourism, biogas in the villages, etc.) reducing the negative influence of the relevant sector over the environment and the natural resources consumption. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
	Soil	<i>Soil protection from erosion and pollution</i>	MR I	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
			P	The recommendations in the areas of water and resources will also have a positive influence over the soil	As aforementioned (see MRI and R for waters and resources)	
		<i>Protection and reestablishment of the habitats and natural systems, as well as protection of the biodiversities</i>	MR I	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-

Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
			Locations that do not have substantial meaning for the biodiversity should be used as locations for new construction	The infrastructure that will be built with the support of the activities from the Programme must not reduce the biodiversity in the project areas. Therefore, the construction should be directed towards locations of small significance in this context. This recommendation goes in compliance with several others (construction farther away from the river and lake shores, reusing the old factories locations, preventing incorrect urban development, etc). Only the “soft” infrastructure related to the biodiversity should be stimulated. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			It is necessary to prepare Analyses of the influence over the environment if it refers to a new infrastructure in the existing protected areas, natural parks, reserves and/or future Nature 2000 locations	The projects in the existing protected areas, natural parks, reserves and/or future Nature 2000 locations should always be accompanied by an adequate analysis of the influence over the environment in order to realize the opportunities for reducing and eliminating the potentially negative influences over the environment. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
	<i>Effective and integrated protection of the natural treasures in the protected areas</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-

Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Population and health	<i>Accessibility (services, transport services)</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	It is necessary to establish public transport systems for connecting the public services, administrative offices, cultural heritage, post offices, etc.)	The areas where the project will be realized are poorly interconnected by public transport thus limiting the mobility of the vehicles' owners and increasing the traffic pollution. In this manner, the mobility will be increased. This measure is feasible in distant project areas, it is strongly related to the employment, education and tourism, and it is related to the activities for reducing the pollution.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
	<i>Protection of the population and the tangible goods from the harmful water influences</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	In the areas in which there is a risk from floods there should be no construction	All projects envisaged within the Programme should be located outside the areas prone to floods. This can be achieved with careful monitoring of the urban planning process in combination with the other measures proposed in this plan (preventing the irregular expansion and development of the urban environments, prohibited construction of facilities along the river flows and on the lake shores).	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development

Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Energy	<i>Increasing the energy efficiency in all areas of the energy consumption and delivery</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	Focusing on the energy efficiency, including promotion of central heating, alternative fuels and increasing the energy efficiency of the facilities	The projects envisaged within the Programme should be directed towards the promotion of measures for increasing the energy efficiency, particularly in the public facilities and services. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
	<i>Increased use and promotion of the renewable sources of energy</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	The usage of the biomass and other renewable sources of energy should be supported	The projects envisaged within the Programme should support an increased usage and promotion of the renewable sources of energy. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development



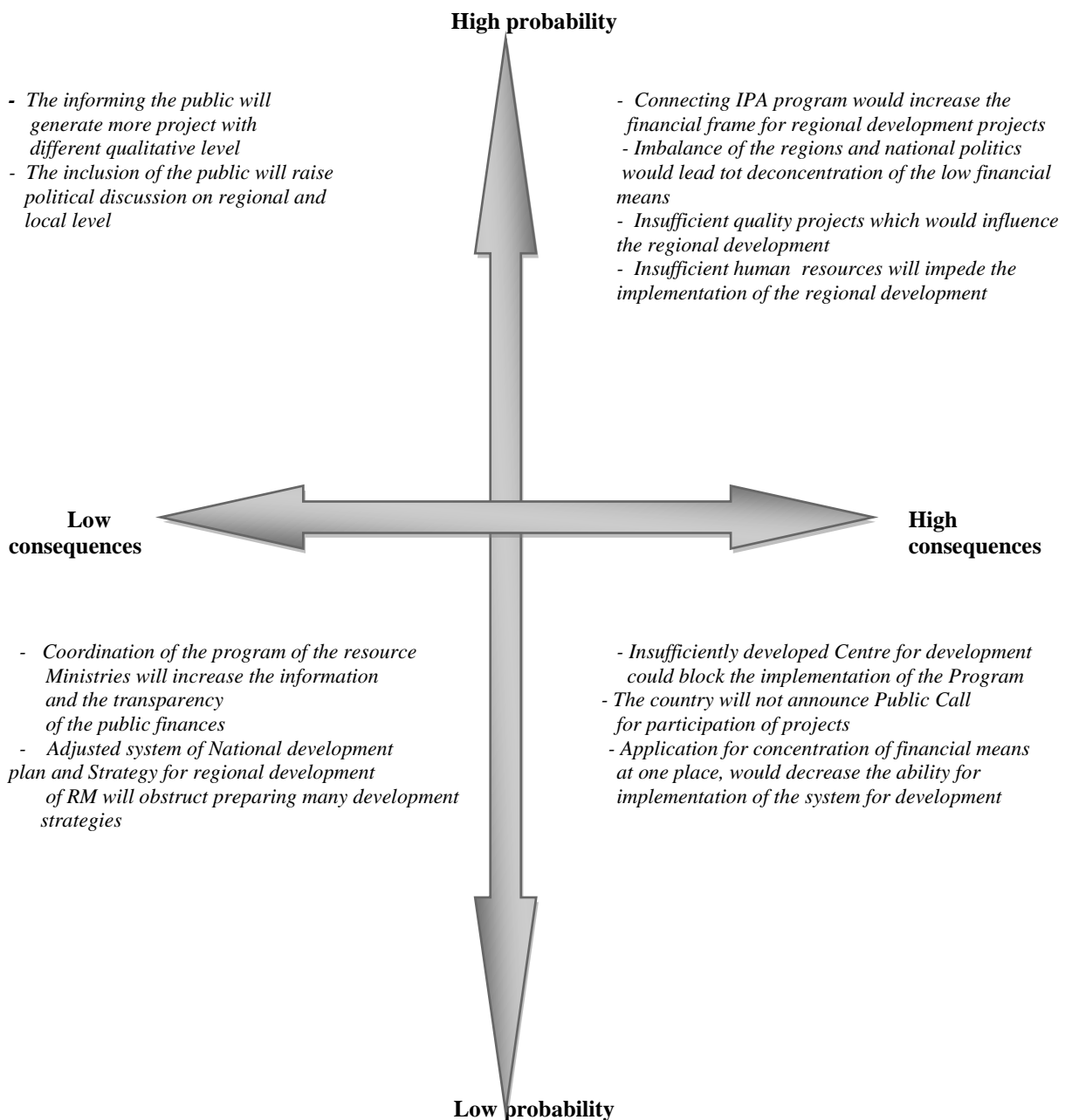
Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
Waste	<i>Reducing the waste quantities</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
		P	Preparing a cross-border strategy for the waste and its potential beneficial usage as secondary material	The cross-border strategies for waste management for the distant regions could solve many problems related to the solid waste, its disposal and recycling. Projects with contents related to the waste management should be developed, and the preparations of the strategies for waste reuse or waste recycling could be developed separately. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all projects related to a sustainable development.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			Supporting projects for cross-border waste management.	Certain areas along the border lines represent regions in a geographical sense; accordingly the waste management could be more efficient in that manner. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all projects related to a sustainable development.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
Cultural heritage	<i>Revitalization of the cultural heritage</i>	P	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence		-

Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
		P	The typology of the facilities in the settlements related to the cultural heritage should be taken into account during the adoption of the decisions for new constructions (traditional architecture...)	In the projects envisaging construction or reconstruction of infrastructure, buildings or installations protected as cultural heritage, the guidelines for restoration and reconstruction of facilities protected by law should be observed. The new infrastructure should be designed in such manner so that it does not influence on reducing the integrity of the cultural heritage of the site. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all projects related to a sustainable development.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			The support of the urban planning should be in the function of regenerating the urban and rural settlements	See above ( <i>Rational use and protection of the natural resources</i> ) In addition, during the concentration on the development in the settlements, during the designing of a new or reconstructed infrastructure an effort for protection of the characteristic architectonic and natural elements should be made. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all types of designs.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development
			The cooperation during the conservation of the cultural heritage could focus on the promotion of environmentally acceptable renovation of the facilities, as well as on promoting the traditional knowledge as environmental techniques.	The projects focusing on exchange of experiences and knowledge for the conservation and revitalization of the cultural heritage, and particularly with environmental techniques, should be developed within the Programmer's activities. With the promotion of the results from these projects, the remaining projects from the Programme could obtain quality and use the results from some activities. This recommendation is feasible in all project areas and all projects related to cultural exchange.	Centre for SWPR development in cooperation with the Bureau for Regional Development

Issues	Objectives for the environment protection	Measures for reducing the influence (MRI), recommendations (R)		Explaining the feasibility of the measure	Responsible institution and implementation mechanism
	<i>Accessibility of the cultural heritage and identification of the educational potential</i>	MRI	The influence of the Programme of this purpose for environment protection will be insignificant and no measures have been envisaged for reducing the influence	-	-
	<i>Protection of the elements contributing towards cultural recognizability</i>	MRI	The support of the urban planning should be directed towards maintaining the recognizable elements of the environment.	-	-
P		The recommendation for reducing the irregular expansion of the urban settlements, improving the hydro-morphological situation in the rivers and lakes, as well as for the sustainable usage of the natural resources also supports the preserving of the cultural recognisability.	<i>See above (Rational use and protection of the natural resources, irregular expansion of the urban settlements, improving the hydro-morphological characteristics of the rivers and lakes, sustainable usage of the natural resources).</i>		

### 19.3 Risk analysis

The risk analysis is developed as support to the future decisions and understanding of the possible risk in the implementation of the Program. The risks are classified in 4 (four) main groups:



#### 19.3.1 High probability / low consequences (up left):

The higher transparency of the Program achieved through better organized and planned information and promotion activities will rise greater political and public discussion on the procedures and activities for development in the region. There would be some negative discussions at the beginning, but the transparency will provide better preparation and

implementation of the development projects. There could be a debate on regional and local level, and that is the aim of the campaign for informing the public.

### **19.3.2 Low probability / low consequences (down left):**

The coordination of the implementation of this Program in relation to the coordinated programs of the resource ministries will improve the efficiency of the public finances, despite the fact that more activities should be conducted in order to achieve sustainability and efficiency of the public finances. The regional policy is only one aspect within the context of the public finances.

The coordinated preparation of the National development plan and the wide preparation of the Strategy would result into better cooperation with other sectors and line ministries, which would lead to decrease in the number of strategies and planning documents. The regional competition can be strategy covering more areas.

The promotion of the regional development and the strategy for its achievement can lead to inclusion of many other donators and financial institutions, despite the fact that this can be expected in minor scope because of the differences in the plans and procedures of the different donators.

### **19.3.3 Low probability / high consequences (down right)**

Insufficiently effective centre for development of the Southwest planning region could block or defer the implementation of the Program. Intensive cooperation with this centre will be required for preparation and implementation of the quality development projects in timely manner.

Based upon the financial problems and restrictions of the state budget, the country could cancel the calls for projects whereby will block the implementation of the Program. This would cause weakening of the cooperation between the Centre for development of the planning region, the Office for regional development and the state.

The concentration of most of the finances in one ministry would cause serious technical and administrative difficulties. The concentration of the funds must be coordinated and planned over a longer period in order to achieve appropriate operation/management and successful results of the policies which is the aim of the regional policy.

The quality projects could draw more financial means than the others. This could lead to blocking of the implementation of the projects in less developed regions with weaker development teams and Centres. Some form of mechanism for balancing will be required in future in order to prevent this possibility together with stronger support of the Centres for development in the planning regions, which is main concern.

### **19.3.4 High probability / high consequences (up right)**

Coordination of the national financing with IPA Funds will strengthen the regional development politics and will improve the implementation of the projects. This will provide

possibility for regional development projects and projects in the field of the cross-border cooperation.

The future incoordination of the national, regional and other means shall weaken the entire system. Some form of coordination is required for the future European integration of Macedonia. Each institution of the system will have to recognize its contribution in the process and to build its capacities within the structure for implementation of the development policies in the state.

The insufficient number of projects with regional influence and importance will have to be surpassed with strong technical cooperation of any kind, while the preparation of regional development projects must be a priority in the next five years.

The deficiency of human and other (financial, legal, proprietary...) resourced will have negative influence on the process of preparation of draft-projects and on the ability for regional development through implementation of the same. The cooperation between all factors of the system for support of the regional development (and more broadly) would have to be organized by coordination body in which the regional and national institutions and organization will participate.

#### **19.4 Non-technical summary**

This is a non-technical summary of the information provided in the above tables and describes the results from the strategic estimation of the impact on the environment by the Program for development of the Southwest planning region 2010-2015.

##### **19.4.1 Introduction**

This summary describes the results from the strategic estimation of the Program for development of the Southwest planning region. In other words, the strategic estimation aims at identification of the potential impacts on the environment as a result to the implementation of the Program for development and providing measures part of the program.

##### **19.4.2 Process of strategic estimation**

<b>Strategic estimation phase</b>
Setting up a context for estimation through identification of other relevant documents
Developing sequence of objectives for protection of the environment (estimation frame)
Collecting basic data for the region and identification of problems on the environment
Testing of the effects expected from the Program on the objectives for protection of the environment
Monitoring of the impacts on the environment as a result to he implementation of the Program

##### **19.4.3 Development program**

The centre for development of the Southwest planning region can receive financial means from the Budget of the republic of Macedonia through different programs of the resource ministries responsible for the regional development; from European Union funds through various programs, means provided by bilateral agreements concluded between Republic of Macedonia and other states. The mentioned programs provide means for specific purposes.

The sources for financing of the separate measures and activities are provided in the program for development of the Southwest planning region. The program for development includes priorities in the field of economic development, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development, culture and tourism, protection of the environment and renewable energy resources, and the social development. The measures of the priorities describe the types of the projects for which one will provide financial means and the same are thematically elaborated.

#### **19.4.4 Estimated effects form the Development program**

The process of testing the priorities considered the most important effect of the priorities on the objectives of the strategic estimation. In some cases, recommendation were made for deduction of these effects. The summed results are provided below.

#### **19.4.5 The Program as a whole**

The initial consideration of the entire Program showed that positive and neutral influence on the objectives of the strategic estimation is expected from some of the areas in the Program. The other influences depend on the projects anticipating new business or other type of economic development and for the same it is required an account to be taken for the issues related to the biodiversity, sustainable development, exploitation of the water and production of waste. Thus, it is necessary to define the criteria in the decision-making process for preparation of the projects, whereas the issues covered with the objectives of the strategic estimation should be included.

Each priority is considered and estimated separately in order to determine the impacts on the environment. The conclusionc are summed up below.

#### ***Priority 1 – Economic development***

This priority has specific objectives, to strengthen the capacities in the region and to increase the transfer of knowledge. These objectives and the appropriate activities are compatible with the objective of the strategic estimation. Recommendations in this respect are not provided. The objectives of the part consisting of small businesses, strengthening of permanent MSP are compatible with the objectives of the strategic estimation. Recommendations are not provided.

#### ***Priority 2 - Infrastructure***

The total influence depends on the nature of the projects supported and implemented. Part of the activities, such as the communal infrastructure, will have positive impact on the environment. Considering the fact that the projects anticipating preparation of technical documentation are not that important, the part relating to the road infrastructure wont have significant impact on the environment. The construction phase of this infrastructure should be in line with the objectives for strategic estimation.

The more often utilization of IKT assists in the decrease in the needs for travelling and consequently will result in deduction of the exhaust fumes and of the air, water and soil pollution. Other impacts in this respect are hard to be determined.

#### ***Priority 3 – Agriculture and rural development***

The estimated activities consider the issues having potentially positive impact on the environment. The recommendation for this priority is ecological agriculture. Most of the project areas are rural with the agriculture as one of the greatest resources for pollution of the ground and underground waters. By promoting the ecological agriculture, the pollution will deduct and the incomes of the farmers will increase, especially with activities related to the tourism (promotion of local food and products, sale of eco-products to the tourists etc.)

#### ***Priority 4 - Culture and tourism***

The total impact depends on the nature of the projects supported and implemented. Nevertheless, the estimated activities consider the issues having potentially positive impact on the biodiversity, decrease in the pollution, decrease in the impact of the transport and emission of greenhouse gasses, as well as protection of the cultural heritage. The entities estimated as holder of the activities should prepare integrated sustainable strategy. That strategy should consider the issues included in the objectives of the strategic estimation.

#### ***Priority 5 - Protection of the environment and renewable energy resources***

The protection of the environment has specific objective to protect the water resources and facilities, to strengthen the measures for purification of waste waters even in the smallest area within the Southwest planning region. These objectives and the estimated activities are compatible with the objectives of the strategic estimation. It can be only recommended to exploit energetic effective facilities for treating waste waters.

This topic comprises the most important challenges related to the environment which Republic Macedonia face, but also the entire world, and that is the need to decrease the exploitation of fossil fuels in the production of energy. Thus, the impact of the activities estimated in this respect will be positive for the environment.

#### ***Priority 6 – Social development***

The measures and the activities estimated within this priority do not have negative impact on the environment, that is, the same are compatible with the objectives of the strategic estimation of the engagement.

#### **19.4.6 Conclusions**

The general conclusion of the experts from the process of strategic estimation is that the Program for development has cumulative positive effects on the decrease in the pollution and emission of greenhouse gasses. It could be concluded that where the potential impacts can not be determined, the same are more positive or widely neutral.

The experts in the detailed part of the strategic estimation made recommendations for each of the priorities and respective measures in the Program. It is considered that each of the recommendations will make positive contribution in the implementation of the Program for development. In the preparation of the projects according to each measure, an account should be taken for their adjustment with the principles of the sustainable development. It is recommended to keep records during the implementation of projects for the impact of the



activities on the environment and their adjustment with the existing regulation in this respect. In this context, the Centre for development during the preparation of the projects and implementation of the same should cooperate with all relevant institutions responsible for protection of the environment, so the realization of the Program with appropriate methods for selection, indicators for success and stipulated criteria will be provided.

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