



The environmental management system in the Republic of Macedonia – problems, issues and challenges

Kiril D. Hristovski^{a,*}, Nicholas R. Hild^a, Jennifer E. Young-Hristovski^b

^a Environmental Technology, College of Technology and Innovation, Arizona State University- Polytechnic Campus, Mesa, Arizona, USA

^b Global Technology Development, College of Technology and Innovation Arizona State University- Polytechnic Campus, Mesa, Arizona, USA

A B S T R A C T

Keywords:
Macedonia
Environmental management
Post-communist
Transition
Challenges

Starting with the premise that the environmental management system is an integral part of the multidimensional socio-economic, cultural and political system of a country, a critical overview of the existing environmental management system in Macedonia was conducted as a case study in an attempt to identify and evaluate the key problems, challenges, and issues that hinder the transition of post-communist countries. The analysis revealed that the same barriers were present in the different systems of many post-communist countries. These barriers may be overcome only by creating indigenous well educated personnel who understand the specifics of their country.

© 2010 Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of The Regents of the University of California.

Introduction

Since the fall of the Berlin wall, influx of new products and technologies, together with the opening of new markets, has initiated dramatic economic changes in post-communist countries. Additionally, vast influx of new Western ideas, views, and knowledge followed these economic changes and, consequently, has necessitated redefinition of old regulatory and management principles which were deeply rooted in the former socialist system and communist ideology (Agh, 1999; Naumovska, 2000). Suddenly, while these countries transitioned to free market economies, their new governments had to deal with the realities of crumbling infrastructure, unemployment, corruption, nepotism, and inadequate or non-existent education in environmental management practices.

During the fifty plus years of socialism, priorities of communist regimes generally excluded concerns about environmental management and people's exposure to contaminants in the air, water, and soil. Restructuring the old socialist based environmental regulatory and management approaches to address the needs of post-socialist transition represented one of the greatest challenges for the institutions of these countries. Many problems, challenges and issues in the environmental arena mirrored the ones in the socio-economic, cultural and political arenas. This is not surprising since the environmental management system is an integral part of the multidimensional socio-economic, cultural, and political system of a country. As such, problems, challenges and issues manifested in the environmental management system exhibit the same nature as the ones emerging from transitioning of the socio-economic, political and institutional systems. Therefore, it is valid to say that the level of overall transition success in a post-communist country can be viewed through the prism of transition success in the environmental management system. One may even consider the environmental management system to be a more stringent indicator of a successful transition in a post-communist country because socio-economic and political problems are generally considered more important than environmental issues.

* Corresponding author. Environmental Technology, College of Technology and Innovation, Arizona State University - Polytechnic Campus, 6073 S. Backus Mall, Mesa, AZ, 85212. Tel. + 1 480 727 1291.

E-mail address: Kiril.Hristovski@asu.edu (K.D. Hristovski).

Macedonia, one of the six transitioning Yugoslavian Republics, established its independence in the early 1990s with a declaration that it would embrace the ideals of Western democracies while providing its people with a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations. However, Macedonia has been struggling through its 18 year long transition. In an attempt to identify and evaluate key problems, challenges, and issues that hinder the transition process in Macedonia, and with a premise that these obstacles can be observed through the prism of an environmental management system, a critical overview of the Macedonian environmental management system was conducted. The findings from this study can easily be extrapolated for many post-communist countries.

Republic of Macedonia – a country overview

Located in the southeastern part of Europe, Republic of Macedonia is landlocked between Serbia, including Kosovo, Bulgaria, Albania and Greece (Fig. 1) and encompasses an area of 25,713 km² (State Statistical Office, 2006). According to the latest census in 2002, the population of Macedonia is 2,022,547. Population density is approximately 80 inhabitants/km² (State Statistical Office, 2005, a). Most of the population resides in urban areas (59%), including the 23% of the total population that reside in Skopje (State Statistical Office, 2005a; Ministry of Local Government, 2006). The ethnic picture of the country obtained from the latest census suggests that the Macedonian population is comprised of 66% Macedonians, 25% Albanians, and 9% other minorities such as Turks, Vlachs (Aromani), Serbs, and Roma. (State Statistical Office, 2005). The unemployment rate in Macedonia has been slowly increasing in the last decade rising from 30.9% in 2001 to 34.9% in 2008, creating a substantial burden on the economy (State Statistical Office, 2008).

The majority of the country's land (79%) is characterized by mountainous and hillside areas, while the flatlands and surface waters comprise 19.1% and 1.9%, respectively. Agricultural land comprises 25% and forests 33% of the available land (Ministry of Environment, 2003).

Macedonia is constituted as a parliamentary republic with a president and a legislative branch comprised of a 120–140 parliament members. Interestingly, however, it is not the president, but the prime-minister and his ministerial cabinet who have charge of the executive branch of government. (Assembly of Republic of Macedonia, 2005). Although the judicial branch of government is considered independent, its independence is seriously compromised as a result of influence of political parties on the judicial election process and parliament, which is mandated with the appointment of judges. According to the Macedonian constitution, elections are held every four years to elect members of the parliament and every five years to elect a president of the republic (Assembly of Republic of Macedonia, 2005).



Fig. 1. Map of the Republic of Macedonia.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات