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PRESS RELEASE

PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE SUSTAINABLE GREECE 2020 AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

Athens, October 27, 2015

QualityNet Foundation as the non-for-profit organization responsible for the implementation of the **Initiative Sustainable Greece 2020** has launched the official presentation of the Initiative at the European level with an active participation in several international conferences.

Thus, QualityNet participated in the annual conference of the **European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)** in **Luxembourg on 8-9 October** as well as in the International conference of **UN Global Compact in Berlin on 13-14 October** which has celebrated its 15 years of operation.

In more detail, QualityNet Foundation participated in the proceedings of the UN Global Compact in Berlin via an **official booth** in cooperation with its strategic partner the **German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)**, advisory body of the German government on issues of sustainable development.

QualityNet's overall target was to present the Sustainable Greece 2020 Initiative as an example of multi-stakeholder dialogue and stakeholder engagement for the promotion of a sustainable development model at the national level.

The close cooperation between the two organizations has also been underlined by **Prof. Dr. Lucia Reisch, Member of the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)** and moderator of the opening panel of the conference. Prof. Reisch mentioned that through the development of the Sustainability Code which is the centre of the strategic cooperation between QNF & RNE, a greater platform for the promotion of sustainable development will be developed at the European level. Prof. Reisch underlined characteristically that QualityNet Foundation is the organization responsible for the adaptation of the Sustainability Code at the national level with the creation of the Greek Sustainability Code.

In parallel, **Mrs. Yvonne Zwick, project manager of RNE** during her presentation at a special break out session of the conference regarding reporting requirements at the EU Level, had the opportunity to refer in more detail to the benefits and the special characteristics of the Sustainability Code as a practical tool for transparency and self-commitment of organizations underlining also the strategic cooperation of RNE with QualityNet Foundation.

Mrs. Yvonne Zwick mentioned that *"The Initiative Sustainable Greece 2020 constitutes an example in terms of how a private non-governmental Initiative of a small country with immense financial and social issues, has managed by engaging important actors and organizations as well as by developing particular tools such as the Sustainability Code to contribute to the creation of a new model of development and social cohesion."*

The Initiative Sustainable Greece 2020

"Sustainable Greece 2020" Initiative (www.sustainablegreece2020.com) which is implemented by QualityNet Foundation, has the goal, through a systematic and extended dialogue, to create the necessary **tools and methodologies** that would support organizations in incorporating practices of sustainable development.



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In its first year, the Initiative has managed to bring together a wide range of stakeholders from different sectors of the Greek society such as **33 business associations, 120 companies, 17 local authorities** and **44 organizations of the civil society**.

The Initiative is supported by international organizations such as the **European Commission**, the **German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)**, and the **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**.

About QualityNet Foundation:

QualityNet Foundation (QNF) www.qualitynet.gr is a non-governmental Organization that fosters dialogue and engagement amongst stakeholders with regards to issues of Sustainable Development towards the national institutions and the government, the business sector and the civil society.

QualityNet Foundation has been established in 1997 as an open network and up until today has 2,850 member companies, 150 institutions, 340 NGO's, 21,000 active citizens while covering with its educational programs and activities the needs of 35,000 children in primary schools in Greece.

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