

→ Improved water access in Crimea

Country Ukraine

Project title Towards improved access to water

Twinning Province of Noord Brabant (the Netherlands)

State Committee for Water Management of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)

Project period 1 December 2006 to 30 September 2007

Project budget € 65,876

A practice to improve service delivery of local governments

Project objective

Improved access to water for water users in Crimea by preparation of recommendations for the improvement of the water licensing procedure and an investigation and selection of international funds and investment possibilities for improved water management.

Project summary

The Province of Noord Brabant and the State Committee for Water Management of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea co-operated in formulating recommendations for improving the water licensing procedure. The water licensing procedures were improved by implementing a 'one-stop shop'. An analysis of international funds and investment possibilities to improve water recourse management in Crimea was made.

Core information

Crimea is an autonomous republic in the south of Ukraine dependent on agriculture, tourism, mining, fishing, and winemaking. The State Committee for Water Management (SCWM) is an authorized institution of the Ukrainian state executive authority in the field of use, protection and replenishment of water resources (according to the Water Code of Ukraine). Primary tasks include implementing state policy, designing and constructing water systems, managing the state water use account and state water cadastre, and co-ordinating licensing of water rights.

Problem analysis

In Crimea a water license is obligatory for farmers for the extraction of ground water or irrigation. Legislation in Ukraine's Water Code regulates national water rights. The analysis of the procedure for receiving water

rights from the perspective of farmers is complex, bureaucratic and expensive. The SWCM wanted to take measures to improve access to water resources for Ukrainian consumers as the analysis showed that although the license costs are little, there is limitation for water users with limited finances.

Project implementation

The project started with an analysis of the requests of water users through interviews and meetings. The water licensing procedure was analyzed by the SCWM from a water users' perspective and recommendations were based on this perspective. The recommendations resulted in a pilot project 'one stop shop' which was in a second stage introduced in all 14 regions of Crimea. Most important, it provided water users with the opportunity to initiate the request for a water resources license through the regional centers (about 50-200 km), thereby greatly reducing the time and effort needed to organize this. An internet site and a brochure improved the information on possibilities for water use, licensing and co-operation with the SCWM. Furthermore the province of Noord Brabant provided information about possible financial support within EU and the Netherlands for those projects that are dealing with water management and development of water administration.

Process management

The project resulted in a delegation of functions of the SCWM on permit co-ordination. Staff training was conducted. Specialists were involved to co-operate with the population to work out documents required to obtain permits on special water use. The legislative information was made available on the website and a booklet 'water administration of Crimea' was developed, which focuses on the issues of water management in Crimea.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Involve the opinion of water users (by interviews, meetings, etc);
- Address the issue from the perspective of the users as to identify ways for improvement;
- Co-operate with facilitators who have knowledge and good understanding of the local situation and practices to achieve fruitful co-operation;
- Working together in projects dealing with water management, but with different institutions is very effective in terms of sharing costs and work load, but also contributes to an increased exchange of experiences between different institutions.