

## → Strengthening a regional waste management system

**Country** Romania

**Project title** Establishing conditions for a regional waste management system in Tarnava Mare

**Twinning** District Gooi en Vechtstreek, Regional Waste Management Department Gooi en Vechtstreek (the Netherlands)  
ECONORD Sibiu (Romania)

**Project period** 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2009

**Project budget** € 66.550,16

### Project objective

The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of ECONORD Sibiu, the inter-municipal cooperation agency for waste management in the Tarnava Mare Region.

### Project summary

This project was a follow-up of the first LOGO East project that resulted in the establishment of ECONORD Sibiu. During the first project, ECONORD Sibiu was established by 13 municipalities. This project targeted at three components. Firstly, the internal organisation of ECONORD Sibiu is further strengthened by establishing board and staffing procedures. Secondly, a decision is made on the process of waste collection and management. Thirdly, a communication plan is developed for the citizens to inform them on the waste management system.

### Core information

Sibiu County is located in central Romania and has a population of 420,000 inhabitants. In this project, 15 local governments from the Northern part of the County are involved, quite isolated from the Southern part where Sibiu, the capital of the County is located. The 15 local authorities are the towns Mediaş, Dumbrăveni and Coşta Mică and the municipalities Laslea, Alma, Aţel, Brateiu, Târnavă, Dârlos, Micăsasa, Bazna, Şeica Mică, Valea Viilor and Axente Sever.

### Problem analysis

The 15 local governments from the Tarnava Region had serious difficulties to collect waste separately. It was even more challenging to create a dump site according to the requested European standards. At the level of the communes, the waste was not even collected or the citizens preferred to not make use of the collection system as they were charged for it.

### Project implementation

The project started with having a formal decision by the members on the

administrative organization of ECONORD, with the mayor of Mediaş as chair and all other mayors as board members. The board is the decision making body. Statutes of the organisation were developed and approved describing the decision making process. In 2009 the local councils of the member local government decided to delegate the responsibility for waste management to ECONORD Sibiu, directly or through a company contracted by ECONORD. To increase the citizens' awareness on waste collection and management a communication plan was developed and implemented. As a final step discussions were started to develop an overall and comprehensive waste taxation system for the whole area of ECONORD Sibiu. All in all the project helped to create lower prices for citizens for managing their waste, a better collection of waste and to establish one common dump site, managed by one operator.

### **Process management**

The main challenge of this project was the competition with the regional authorities. The county of Sibiu started to create a new agency for waste management for the whole county, while according to national legislation there can only be one such an agency per county. However, in good communication with the county it was decided to move on with ECONORD since the new agency was not able to cover the whole county. Another challenge was and still is the creation of an overall and comprehensive waste taxation system for the whole area of ECONORD. A mentality change at the level of the mayors is needed for this as they need to focus on the benefits for the region instead of their own localities.

### **Recommendations: do's and don'ts**

- Implement an overall and comprehensive waste taxation system for the whole area.
- Keep the leaders informed and ask them to attend the meetings; they need to understand the value of this initiative.
- Inform the citizens about the benefits of the waste collecting service (especially in rural areas).
- Try to make the leaders understand that some of the regional problems can be much more easily solved together than separately.
- Follow the national legislation but do not let others to misinterpret it!