

→ Two Rivers – One Mission II

Country Ukraine

Project title Dommel – Salgir, Two Rivers – One Mission II

Twinning Water Board De Dommel (the Netherlands)
Salgir Water Management Department (WMD),
Simferopol (Ukraine)

Project period 1 June 2008 to 30 November 2009

Project budget € 57.507,27

A practice to improve the service delivery of local governments

Project objective

Improve communication on water issues. Diminish health problems in Simferopol and the surrounding areas by raising public awareness on hygiene and drinking water quality. Improve the functioning of the technical water infrastructure functioning.

Project summary

The project combined efforts of stakeholders to improve the current situation in Simferopol and neighbouring areas concerning sanitation, water issues, technical infrastructure, and communication.

Core information

Salgir WMD lies within the Simferopol, Alushta and Yalta districts in Crimea and covers an area of about 260,000 ha. The Department is in charge of the water supply from four reservoirs. Water is supplied to drinking water companies, heating companies (for heating houses), industry (cooling water for electricity plants), and agriculture (20,000 ha). Being the capital of Crimea, Simferopol is an important political, economic, and transportation center of the peninsula.

Problem analysis

Bad sanitation and hygiene in the area of Simferopol causes bad quality of water in the lake, which is the source of drinking water for the city. Local people are not fully aware and sometimes even neglect actual and potential risks. As a result they have health problems (like cholera or diarrhoea). The technical water infrastructure is old and outdated, creating high risks for customers. There is a need for plan for renewal and necessary investments. In addition, the Salgir WMD wishes to improve its capacity to communicate with diverse groups of water users.

Project implementation

Firstly, a field visit took place to investigate the problems in Ukraine and to

propose draft initiatives. Ukrainian partners visited the Netherlands to learn the Dutch solutions to these problems. Based on the knowledge exchange, several instruments were elaborated, such as a communication plan to raise public awareness about water issues, a handbook on sanitation, and a business plan for water infrastructure improvement and possibilities for investments. In addition, a Water Communication Platform was established to enable all stakeholders to discuss and resolve common problems. In addition, a sanitation course was organized for civil servants. The project made good concrete steps to improve the local situation.

Process management

Other Twinnings, between municipalities and water management departments from the Netherlands and Ukraine implemented similar activities in Crimea, targeted at the same problems. As such, citizens and municipal servants of different departments of local and district authorities were involved in the process of change. Special attention was paid to the water ecology analysis. Public awareness raising could have positive results on the current situation.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Perform water ecology analysis.
- Don't avoid communication with all stakeholders.
- Unite efforts with those working on the same problem.