

→ Towards Integrated Water Resources Management in Crimea

Country Ukraine

Project title Towards Integrated Water Resources Management in Crimea

Twinning Province of Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands)

State Committee for Water Management of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (SCWM-ARC) and Crimean Basin Department of Water Resources (CBDWR) (Ukraine)

Project period 1 June 2008 to 30 November 2009

Project budget € 60.404,24

Project objective

Improve water management in Crimea by increasing the knowledge on the Water Framework Directive and its implementation to solve existing problems and to improve the awareness of the balance between people, economy and ecology.

Project summary

The project worked on the development and partial implementation of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Plan. In addition, it focused on drafting a strategy for ground and surface water monitoring and the submission of a subsidy application for further development of the plan.

Core information

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea is located on the northern coast of the Black Sea, occupying a peninsula of the same name. Its population was 1,973,185 as of 2007. The main branches of its economy are tourism and agriculture. The most important industries include food production, chemical fields, mechanical engineering and metal working. SCWM-ARC is a part of the Crimean Government. CBDWR belongs to the State Committee of Ukraine for Water Management. They deal with use, protection, and reproduction of water resources.

Problem analysis

The Government of Ukraine would like to rationalise the use of scarce water resources in all regions and selected Crimea as a pilot area to implement the principles of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union. The case study, also advised by the Dutch-Ukrainian Advisory Panel for Water for Food and Ecosystems, is to start a policy dialog on IWRM. So, the National Government ordered the Crimean Government to work out an IWRM Plan, dealing with a set of local problems, such as the lack of coordination between stakeholders, water pollution, limited user participation, etcetera.

A practice to improve the service delivery of local governments

Project implementation

The SCWM-ARC and CBDWR have been in charge of the development of the IWRM Plan. To implement the project, a Steering Committee, a Project Group, and a Working Group for Water Monitoring were created. During the visit of the Dutch partners, it was decided to select the Salgir River as a pilot area and to apply the IWRM approaches and tools to this river basin. Efforts to improve the monitoring system also focused on the Salgir river, thereby not only monitoring ground water, but also surface water. The project team analyzed the current state of affairs. Dutch partners provided advice which the Ukrainian partners could use while developing the IWRM Plan for the pilot area and while working on communications with the target groups. It also described the Water Monitoring Strategy in the Salgir river, and purchased necessary equipment.

Process management

The Ministry of Housing and Utilities, Environment Committee, Water Economy Committee, Health Inspection Service, and other state agencies and public organizations were involved in the development process and the process of change. Discussions, consultations were very important and helpful.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Use the knowledge and practices of Western Europe, but adapt it to local realities.
- Study one element in-depth then apply this knowledge as a case study.
- Involve, while targeting very complex issues, the stakeholders, as it broadens the support for your work and provides you with useful information.