

Bringing **waste water treatment facilities** online

Kosovo has a chronic lack of facilities for treating sewage, which often means rivers and groundwater become contaminated. This is why the EU is helping Kosovo meet the cost of installing treatment plants and ensuring correct operation.

A pilot project in Skenderaj/Srbica has at last allowed a modern treatment plant to come into operation. The two-phase process – mechanical and biological – purifies and recycles the sewage, so that it can be returned to rivers without posing a risk to the environment or human health.

EFFECTIVE START-UP

The plant has capacity to serve 8,000 inhabitants. Construction was completed several years ago, but start-up was delayed by some property issues. These have since been solved, and the EU role here was to ensure effective start-up of the plant, conduct full testing of it by checking purity levels of the effluent for over several months, and providing extensive training for the personnel who operate the plant.

Working with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Kosovo Environment Agency, the EU has invested around EUR 60 million to date in refurbishing treatment plants and pumping stations, and related improvements to water networks.

Waste-water treatment plants in small settlements are also under construction in Junik, Kuk and Kosave, Dragash/Dragaš, Skivjan, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Medvec and Vrelle, Lipjan/Lipljan municipality.

A STRATEGY FOR MANAGING WATER

But improving the situation is not just a question of upgrading plants and networks. The right regulatory and management systems are also needed, to ensure services of an acceptable standard and at fair prices. So the EU has also been providing expert help to the Kosovo administration.

Now it is working on a water strategy for the whole of Kosovo, to map out the need for further waste water treatment plants and the rest of the water network.



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 /1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Kosovo

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Basic services like clean water and sanitation are legitimate expectations of the people of Kosovo, where water supply has often been patchy, partly because of insufficient treatment plants and inadequate recycling of water. This project is making a real improvement in people's lives – and showing the way to many other similar improvements.

At the same time, this project helped build up the capacity of local government for tackling and solving social and economic problems affecting the life of the community.

PROJECT DETAILS –

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Skenderaj/Srbica – Start Up, Test Run, Training

Partners:

Ministry of Local Government Administration

Total cost in €:

3.4 million

EU Contribution in €:

450,000 (13.23%)

Start date:

March 2011

End date:

January 2012

Results:

Completion, start-up, testing and supervision of operation of plant

Techniques:

Supply of equipment, along with technical assistance and training

