

Management of sewage sludge in Bulgaria



Wastewater treatment in Sofia. Photo: INTECUS GmbH

Background

The Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria (MoEW) has requested assistance in the adoption of relevant EU requirements on waste water treatment and utilisation of sewage sludge and in applying them to the country's specific circumstances.

The available "National Plan for management of sewage sludge from municipal waste water treatment plants in Bulgaria" from the year 2001 and the "Guidelines on the elaboration of plans for the utilisation of sewage sludge from waste water treatment plants" had become outdated both in terms of the proposed methodologies and the technical content. Therefore, the MoEW asked for the thorough revision of these documents, as well as for a transfer of knowledge and expertise on the best available techniques (BAT) currently available for the utilisation of sewage sludge.

Project

The overall objective of this project was to provide the competent Bulgarian authorities with a politically as well as technically and Bulgarian-specific up-to-date basis for decision-making on

different sewage sludge treatment and utilisation options. For this purpose, the following four documents have been developed in cooperation with the MoEW:

- a "National plan for the management of sewage sludge from municipal waste water treatment plants in Bulgaria", including an appendix with case studies for the application of this plan in selected model regions,
- a summary of this National Plan for the introduction of the concept to the public,
- a "Technical guide on the treatment and recycling techniques for sewage sludge from municipal waste water treatment plants with references to best available techniques (BAT)", as well as
- a guidance in the "Preparation for decision-making in the field of sewage sludge disposal" for waste water treatment plant operators.

At a workshop in Sofia, the documents have been discussed by representatives of MoEW, regional inspectorates, municipalities and waste water treatment plant operators. Afterwards they have been submitted to MoEW.

- Target country: Bulgaria
- Duration: 10/2010 - 11/2013
- Beneficiaries: Ministry of Environment and Water, Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, waste water treatment plant operators
- Implementing organisations: INTECUS GmbH Waste Management & Environment-integrating Management www.intecus.de, C&E Consulting and Engineering GmbH www.cue-chemnitz.de, Planeco Ltd. www.planeco-bg.com
- Project number: FKZ 380 01 233