



## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Integrated water and sanitation safety plans in small supplies in Serbia



Small water supply in  
Tornjoš village

Source: The Institutes of Public  
Health of Kikinda and of Serbia

## Background

The provision of safe drinking water and sanitation services to the public requires the use of risk assessment and management frameworks e.g. Water Safety Plans and Sanitation Safety Plans. An integrated water and sanitation safety plan (iWSSP) is a desirable approach for rural areas with limited resources and support. One third of rural water supply systems in Serbia were found not to meet standards for microbiological drinking-water quality. Moreover, rural areas have less access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation compared to urban areas.

## Project details

The project's main goal was to establish an advanced safe water and sanitation service provision in small systems in rural areas in Serbia. The project team thus assessed the feasibility of iWSSP at selected pilot sites. An iWSSP concept, guidance and training material on this novel approach was developed, ready to be implemented. Capacity building at local community and national level was gained by providing training workshops and in-depth support during implementation. The integrated approach was piloted in three small systems in rural Serbia to identify benefits and suggestions for improvement.

Information on implementing iWSSP and the experiences from this pilot study are published in the international [Journal of Water and Health](#). Based on project outputs, i.e. knowledge and tools, local communities, water suppliers, and public health institutes at regional and national level are able to scale the approach up to additional rural communities and decision-making authorities. This will ultimately sustain good water and sanitation safety, including added benefits to the environment and population health in Serbia.

Updated: January 2024

**Project country:** Serbia

**Duration:** 04/2021 – 12/2023

**Beneficiaries:** Institute of Public Health of Serbia; Water suppliers and community in pilot sites

**Implementing organisations:** Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

**Project number:** 154934

### Thematic management:

German Environment Agency (UBA)  
Bettina Rickert, Verena Zügner  
Tel.: +49-340-2103-4133 / -4273  
[bettina.rickert@uba.de](mailto:bettina.rickert@uba.de)

### Project coordination:

AAP Project service unit  
Dr. Sonja Otto  
Tel.: +49-340-2103-2210  
[sonja.otto@uba.de](mailto:sonja.otto@uba.de)

### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

### AAP Project service unit:

[AAP-info@uba.de](mailto:AAP-info@uba.de)

[www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme)  
[www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme)