

PROJECT INFORMATION

State as at end of project April 2008

Transboundary Water Management in the Polish-Ukrainian River Basin of Bug and San



Sewage treatment plant in the municipality of Zoločiv (Ukraine) Picture: INERCONSULT Dr. Reichel&Co. GmbH, Stadtentwässerung Dresden GmbH

Background

Since joining the European Union, the Polish government is facing the challenge of fulfilling the provisions of European water legislation. The catchment area of the Polish-Ukrainian border rivers Bug and San with their tributaries is also affected by this adaptation. The City of L'viv and some Ukrainian districts near the Polish border are interested in improving their water management situation as well, as the discharge of their mainly untreated wastewater significantly contributes to pollution. The water quality in the Bug and San river basin is of international importance. It strongly influences the problematic water quality of the Vistula river and also the water quality of the Baltic Sea.

Project

The purpose of the advisory project was to improve the wastewater infrastructure within the Bug and San river basin. The transboundary problems with wastewater were

addressed, the current situation was analysed, and necessary measures were conceptually prepared. The project also set the foundation for structural investments (modernization of existing or potential construction of new plants).

In a medium-term perspective, activities within the European Neighbourhood Policy should be developed from the current project. In the long run, Belarus should be involved in follow-up projects. The project also stimulated a public debate over wastewater and environmental issues within the region. Furthermore, the actors involved were supported in their motivation to cooperate and in raising environmental awareness.

The results show a considerable need for action for the bigger towns in the Ukrainian districts, especially the City of L'viv. Wastewater pipes and sewerage systems need to be modernised and solutions need to be developed for the treatment and recycling of sewage sludge. Moreover, monitoring and dialog with the local industry must be strengthened in order to prevent discharge of harmful industrial wastewater to municipal sewage plants.

- Programme: Advising-assistance programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment
- Project number: 380 01 143
- Region: Ukraine, Poland
- Duration: 09/2006 – 01/2008
- Project Management: German Federal Environment Agency
- Project partners Germany: Inerconsult GmbH, www.inerconsult.com; Stadtentwässerung Dresden GmbH, www.stadtentwaesserung-dresden.de