

Concept for a training centre for the water and wastewater sector in Bulgaria



Documents are handed over at the concluding conference in Sofia
(Photo: DREBERIS GmbH, Stadtentwaesserung Dresden GmbH)

Background

With its accession to the European Union, Bulgaria committed to adopt and implement the objectives and standards laid down in European environmental legislation, including those in the field of water supply and sanitation. Knowledge of these new requirements must be passed on to the technical and management staff of water utilities and to the staff of public authorities in order to ensure that they can be taken into account in all planning and decision-making processes. Bulgaria did not, however, have an institution at which such transfer of information and the necessary training can take place. This gap was to be closed by setting up a “training centre for the water and wastewater sector”.

Project

The aim of the project was to develop the concept for a training centre of this kind in order to create the basis for the establishment, accreditation and operation of such a centre. The task of the centre is to give training to skilled personnel of water utilities and public adminis-

tration in establishing economically efficient and environmentally friendly water supply and sanitation structures. In a continuous dialogue, the German and Bulgarian project partners defined the organizational framework for the training centre. In addition, in order to gain accreditation, the job profiles “skilled wastewater engineering worker” and “skilled water engineering worker” were newly introduced or, respectively, supplemented with relevant contents in cooperation with the Bulgarian authorities.

Following an analysis of the legal and economic framework and of training needs, relevant training topics were identified and initial training programmes developed. The latter are designed in such a way that while building on the experience gained in Germany, they take into account the specific circumstances in Bulgaria. At the concluding conference, the establishment and accreditation documents were handed over to the Bulgarian project partners in a ceremony attended by representatives of the Bulgarian and German environment ministries. Besides the concept these documents contain a guideline for trainers.

The training centre was accredited in February 2012 and became operational in October 2012 with the first training courses.

- Target country: Bulgaria
- Duration: 12/2008 - 10/2011
- Beneficiaries: Bulgarian Water Association (BWA), Water utilities in Bulgaria
- Implementing organisations: DREBERIS GmbH, Stadtentwaesserung Dresden GmbH, Bulgarian Water Association (BWA), University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy Sofia
- Project number: 380 01198