

UNDP/GEF DANUBE REGIONAL PROJECT

Working Group: Municipal water and wastewater systems

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DRP Overview
October 2005



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The Problem

- International efforts focus mainly on demanding local commitments to pollution control in exchange for external funding
- Need to compliment, look more at local, on-the-ground situation
 - Problems faced by water utility managers and owners need resolution
 - Resistance needs to be overcome



DRP Overview
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Some Problems

- Plant inefficiencies
- Sharply limited local resources
- High costs of nutrient reduction
- Limited financial and planning experience of local managers
- **Need for assistance is there. Developed and tested tools are there. Now need to support further capacity building and get tools better used.**



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Goal

- Identify how to improve local management and policies to loosen up additional local resources and savings
- Some of these then go to reduce polluting effluents



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But...

- There are many external issues or pre-conditions which influence what utilities and managers can do



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Pre-conditions: Fragmentation

- Many small utilities, unmanageable, can't afford improvements or change inefficiencies
- National government needs to act – needs models for new legislation
- Need to “go back” but politically sensitive
- Solution: establish new “de-fragmented” regional water companies



Pre-conditions: Ineffective relationships

- Belarus/Ukraine example
- Industries make agreements with municipality for reduced costs of treatment
- Must be overcome before managers have will to improve situation and want to be trained
- Danube was also like this but changed to market-driven relationships



Pre-conditions: Conflicting messages from above

- International agencies want different things (e.g. check inflation, don't raise prices)
- They negotiate with Finance Ministries
- Water ministries and water/wastewater managers find it difficult to understand and respond with adequate water pricing policy for



Managers need knowledge and capacity-building

- DRP targeted the right people
 - First the utility managers
 - Then the owners (e.g. mayors)
 - Then national level
- Products, info material, demo projects, workshops
- Project did its job – need and tools are there
- What's next? How keep momentum going?



Next steps

- Perfect the products, models, successes
- Show them, replicate to other locations
- Steps
 - 1) General awareness raising workshop
 - 2) Workshop where managers bring in their issues and needs
 - 3) Direct engagement with specific utilities



E.g. Romania workshop

- Romanian Water Assn held workshop
- Lots of interest
- Needs follow up workshop
- Then direct help for specific utilities
- Guidance from experts/trainers is needed!



Nationalize knowledge experiences

- Switch from external donors to Danube countries taking over
- Ministries could have advocates that listen to manager needs and represent them to external donors
- ICPDR messenger/pusher who spreads the message that help is available and should be used



Key messages

- Pollution reduction?
- Products will help keep utility alive
- Many are on the knife-edge now and need help



Funding for "soft services"

- E.g. training, capacity building
- Many countries don't ask for them, dropped off package list early
- Mainly want hard products people can see (better for votes)
- But donors need informed customers
- WB has soft funds. "Countries need to want it. We'd love to help."



Other ideas

- DRP not the only ones (WB, EBRD)
- Costs would not be high!
- WFD requires studies be made to reduce pollutants which could support capacity-building
- Twinning projects: e.g. Serbia/Germany. ICPDR could facilitate more.

