


Swiss-Ukrainian project  
**DESPRO**  
Decentralization Support in Ukraine

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Confederation

**skat** Swiss Resource Centre and  
Consultancies for Development

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

## AT LOCAL, INTER-MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS



**PUBLIC  
SERVICES**

Kyiv, 2020

The Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support Project DESPRO is an international assistance project working in the reform of local self-governance (or “decentralization”) in Ukraine. DESPRO is funded by the Swiss Confederation via the Swiss Cooperation Office and implemented by Skat, and has been active since 2007.

# 1 Introduction

The issues around waste management, in particular solid waste management (SWM), which are currently deemed critical in Ukraine, have been building up for some time. The constant growth of waste generation and accumulation, changes in waste composition, poor management practices, lack of proper regulation – all this has been going on for the last few decades.

When faced with the negative consequences of poor SWM, local communities tried to address it, usually on their own. However, only large- and medium-sized cities are able to cope with this task by themselves: for small towns and rural communities, creating a full-cycle waste management system independently is an almost impossible task.

The creation of a waste management system at optimal scale remains relevant when taking into account the decentralization process in Ukraine. More capable communities are better able to exercise their statutory powers and provide community residents with a full range of SWM services. At the same time, the efficiency of some services, in particular SWM, would be much greater if provided on the basis of inter-municipal cooperation (IMC).

Since 2010, DESPRO provides expert and consultative support to improving waste management in partner regions. Before the active phase of the local self-government reform in 2014,



Point for primary treatment of recyclables in Tulchyn community

DESPRO supported the initiatives of selected communities in improving waste management based on inter-municipal cooperation in Tulchyn (Vinnytsia region), and at later stage in 2 other regions of Ukraine, more specifically in Novi Sanzhary (Poltava) and Hlukhiv (Sumy) districts. Later, when the special law on inter-municipal cooperation came into force in 2014, DESPRO supported similar initiatives in some partner regions.

Having focused on practical work at the local level, DESPRO has been looking for opportunities to scale up its experience vertically, to effectively advocate for adequate regional and national framework conditions in the sector of SWM. A new environmental policy was launched with the approval of the 2030 National Waste Management Strategy (2017) followed by the 2030 National Waste Management Plan (2018). DESPRO's established partnership with the line ministry responsible for SWM has opened a relatively big window of opportunities for DESPRO to make a significant contribution to sector policies.

This brief therefore focuses on the results achieved between 2011 and 2020 by DESPRO in the solid waste management sector. The activities related to developing and implementing local solid waste management projects based on inter-municipal cooperation, as well as initiatives in regional waste management have brought a lot of different experiences and lessons learnt which, we believe, might be interesting for countries with similar contexts.



Representatives of Hlukhiv town and Bereza community sign the Inter-municipal Cooperation Agreement to implement a joint SWM project (2016)



Waste separate collection site in Tulchyn community



Waste separate collection point in Bereza community

## 2 Achievements (2007-2021)

### Service provision and coverage

- Over 78'000 citizens (including 55% of women) in rural areas and small towns benefited directly from improved SWM resulting from 3 inter-municipal cooperation projects implemented in 3 partner regions: Vinnytsia, Sumy and Poltava;
- Service coverage increased: for instance, in Tulchyn community (Vinnytsia region) the coverage of SWM services in the town of Tulchyn itself increased from only 35% of the population in 2012 to 62% in 2015. In the surrounding villages, service coverage increased in 2015 to 25% compared to none in 2012. The inter-municipal

cooperation concept enabled the provision of SWM services in rural communities where it did not exist before;

- Significant growth of the level of customer satisfaction with the quality of SWM service provision: from 36% (2012) to over 80% (2016)<sup>1</sup>;
- Positive impact showed at the level of households such as improved household environmental and sanitary situation and change of behavior towards waste separation and recycling culture<sup>2</sup>.

### Policy and institutional changes

- The following important organizational development aspects were observed at the level of local governments and service providers:

enhanced capacity to organize the service effectively along the SWM chain, actual scaling-up of services, optimization of service provision



Field Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government Vinnytsia region, 2017



<sup>1</sup> DESPRO Customer Satisfaction Surveys for partner communities, Reports for 2012, 2015, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Evidence collected during the impact tracking survey (Most Significant Change Story) (DESPRO, March-April 2020)

and costs, including through the inter-municipal cooperation model<sup>3</sup>;

- The expert and consultative support for amalgamated communities in strategic planning for waste management had a wider effect, as communities could use the strategic planning tool for inter-municipal cooperation for other areas of local development;
- The integration of the DESPRO-supported projects into local and sub-regional level policies made it possible to allocate additional financial resources to the relevant budgets for waste management-related projects;
- The level of local co-funding for DESPRO-supported projects in SWM is significant and exceeded 31% (consisting of regional, sub-regional and local budgets);
- The results achieved at the local level have made it possible to provide a significant contribution to the waste management sector at the level of national policy. The Guidelines on regional waste management planning elaborated by DESPRO and tested in one of the partner regions endorsed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources in 2019 now forms the basis for further regional waste management planning in the whole country;

## Capacity-building and training

- The capacities of at least 100 people were developed: local authority officers, community leaders, representatives of district and regional authorities have upgraded/learnt new knowledge through extensive expert and consultative support, training, exchange, as well as through joint planning and implementation of socially important initiatives. Trained and skilled decision-makers together with environmentally-aware community members are now able to maintain and develop sustainable waste management systems based on their own institutional capability, with lesser need for extensive international aid intervention;
- A series of manual, practical guides, videos, an online non-tutored training course "Planning of Local and Inter-Municipal Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems" (<https://udl.despro.org.ua/course/view.php?id=48>), a practical guide "Inter-municipal Cooperation Agreements in the Area of SWM" ([https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Dogovory\\_TPV.pdf](https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Dogovory_TPV.pdf)) have made this specific knowledge available for dozens of thousands of stakeholders. The abovementioned online course, featuring the possibility for participants to enroll anytime and study at their pace and schedule, since its start in 2016 involved 615 different stakeholders, 60% of which are women.

## 3 Process/Methodology

DESPRO takes a holistic approach to the "waste problem" by applying the concept of **Integrated Solid Waste Management**. The waste management planning is organized as a **stepwise process**: the results of the first stage are taken as the basis for planning the next stage. As a result of the planning process, an Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy is designed for a given territory.

Sustainability and efficiency are the main features of this approach. To bring waste management to scale, DESPRO makes use of the **inter-municipal cooperation** principles as well as the framework elaborated under the Law "On cooperation of territorial communities" (№ 1508-VII of 17.07.2014). Developing joint systems of waste management leads to sustainable and efficient solutions for communities of Ukraine. For instance, in the case of

Novi Sanzhary district (Poltava region), the strategy was developed for an inter-municipal waste cluster uniting the town of Novi Sanzhary and 4 neighbouring villages (including the village where the landfill was located).

One of the key components of the DESPRO approach has been the constant support to the development of legislation in the field of inter-municipal cooperation. Since 2011, in the absence of special legislation on inter-municipal cooperation, DESPRO has developed and supported the implementation of a pilot project in the field of SWM on the basis of inter-municipal cooperation. The project involved three neighboring communities to create a joint SWM system in the Tulchyn district of the Vinnytsia region. The strategy of integrated solid waste management, developed with the

<sup>3</sup> Evidence collected during the impact tracking survey (Most Significant Change Story) (DESPRO, March–April 2020)

expert and consultative support of DESPRO, was officially approved by the authorities, and its implementation was ensured with co-financing from DESPRO.

It is important to note that the significant experience and lessons learned that DESPRO and partner local communities have gained from the implementation of inter-municipal cooperation projects have laid the foundations for upscaling. The experience of Tulchin was used by national authorities in the process of drafting legislation for inter-municipal cooperation at the initial stage, as well as at a later stage, when the legislation came into force. More recently, the involvement of DESPRO expertise in various expert working groups enabled us to directly contribute to the development of strategic policies as well as legislative documents. The elaboration of the Regional Waste Management Plan for Vinnytsia oblast in 2019 – the first ever regional document for such a purpose in Ukraine – has been conducted in close cooperation with line Ministries and enabled the testing of the methodology for regional waste management planning, also elaborated by DESPRO experts.

**НАВИЩО СТВОРЮВАТИ КЛАСТЕР ДЛЯ УПРАВЛІННЯ ВІДХОДАМИ:**

- ✓ щоб переробляти відходи якнайближче до джерела їхнього утворення;
- ✓ щоб використовувати відходи як сировину для вторинної переробки та виробництва енергії;
- ✓ щоб економити на масштабі (адже витрати на захоронення 1 тонни відходів на полігоні, де захороняться протягом року 300 тисяч тонн, удвічі менші, ніж на полігоні, де захороняться 30 тисяч тонн за рік).



One of the posters used in communication support of the Vinnytsia Regional Waste Management Plan



Map of SWM clusters of the Vinnytsia region as presented in its 2030 Regional Waste Management Plan

## 4 Lessons learned

The following factors have been identified as crucial to ensure the success of DESPRO's SWM approach at the local level:

- Investment in environmental awareness-building;
- Building community awareness and civil responsibility;
- Systematic expertise and legal support to service providers and local authorities;
- Combination of technical assistance provision with direct investments;

Strong demand for improving the quality of services creates opportunities to mobilize and involve local authorities, in particular for inter-municipal cooperation projects.

Although the decentralization reform in Ukraine provides significantly more opportunities for local communities in organizing proper service provision, effective and efficient waste management requires an optimal scale that is usually larger than the average community. At the same time, inter-municipal cooperation has also its limitations or obstacles. For instance, inter-municipal cooperation can be organised in Ukraine only on a purely voluntary basis – no legal enforcement is envisaged. Thus, the establishment of full-cycle waste management system at a larger scale should address not only technical issues but also the issues of communication, awareness raising, sound regional policy and support mechanisms.

## Annexes (links to publications)

SOROKOVSKIY V., ARTOV A., (2016) 'Planning of Inter-municipal Systems of Integrated Solid Waste Management (UKR) Available at [http://despro.org.ua/despro/DsprZ\\_elektr\\_small.pdf](http://despro.org.ua/despro/DsprZ_elektr_small.pdf)

VRUBLEVSKIY O., SOROKOVSKIY V. (2018) 'Inter-municipal Cooperation Agreements in the Area of SWM' (UKR) Available at [https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Dogovory\\_TPV.pdf](https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Dogovory_TPV.pdf)

LAZHENKO D. (2019) 'Determination of Household Waste Generation Parameters for Regional Waste Management Planning' (UKR) Available at [https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Параметри\\_утворення\\_побутових\\_відходів.pdf](https://despro.org.ua/library/publication/Параметри_утворення_побутових_відходів.pdf)

Online training course 'Planning of Local and Inter-Municipal Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems' (UKR) (<https://udl.despro.org.ua/course/view.php?id=48>)

Project video 'The results of the implementation of an integrated solid waste management system in the Tulchyn region' <https://youtu.be/Hj95-RAKU6U>

Project video 'How Zachepylivka Community Solves its Waste Problem' <https://youtu.be/R6iVLeMCoLM>

Project video 'Success story of Poltava community' [https://youtu.be/DuM\\_NQC1le4](https://youtu.be/DuM_NQC1le4)

