

DESPRO NEWS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

SWISS-UKRAINIAN
DECENTRALISATION SUPPORT PROJECT

DESPRO takes part in National Policy Dialogue on development of water and wastewater services in Ukraine



The second meeting of the Coordinating Group for the National Policy Dialogue on Water and Wastewater Services in Ukraine was held on October 21 at the Ministry for Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine.

In his report to the meeting, First Deputy Minister Grygoriy Semchuk examined the main problems in the water and wastewater industry and presented a "roadmap" for reform.

The national dialogue was enriched by the participation of representatives from international organisations, who spoke in favour of increasing decentralisation in the water supply and sewerage sector. Vyacheslav Sorokovsky, an expert on decentralisation from the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project in Ukraine, DESPRO, presented a model of decentralised water supply.

Those most adversely affected by the consequences of a still incomplete decentralisation process are the 14.5 million citizens of Ukraine who live in rural areas, since it is village councils that are at the sharp end of the disparity between their newly acquired responsibilities and their existing capacities. The 2008 national report on drinking water quality and the water supply system in Ukraine revealed that only 22% of rural settlements had mains supply systems, most of which were in very bad condition. Among other factors deepening the crisis in this area are the poor quality of the rural water supply, the inadequate ca-

pacities of rural local governments to organize good quality services and village residents' dislocation from local development issues.

"The DESPRO-supported model of decentralised water supply in rural areas is proving its effectiveness in the current socio-economic conditions and fulfils both short-term tasks, such as organising good quality water supply services for rural communities, and long-term tasks like community development, increasing the capacity of local governments, and so on," Mr. Sorokovsky said.

There are more administrative-territorial units than local self-government bodies in Ukraine. (As of December 2009, there were 29,815 populated localities and 12,110 local councils in the country.) This situation leads to unresolved issues of land use, which must be settled before the water-supply and wastewater systems can be organised in a high-quality manner. The roadmap is a package of planned activities that need to be carried out in order to solve the complex problems of the water sector. All of these activities foresee the enlargement of administrative-territorial units. The DESPRO project will continue to support the development of the water sector.

The meeting approved the roadmap, which covers the period from October 2010 to December 2015. •



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Швейцарська Конфедерація

skat Swiss Resource Centre and
Consultancies for Development

Швейцарсько-український проект •
Підтримка децентралізації в Україні

DESPRO

DESPRO is a Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support to Ukraine project, funded by the Swiss Confederation through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (Skat).

The mission of the project is optimizing the governance system and supporting efficient local development in Ukraine, thus creating new impetus for further democratization processes as well as for improvement in services supply at the community and municipal levels.

The project stipulates three phases: preparatory phase (years 2007-2009), consolidation phase (years 2010-2012) and completion phase.

Goal of the project phase I consisted in implementing decentralized services models at rayon, village and municipal levels.

Goal of the current project phase (II) - developing and implementing feasible mechanisms of decentralized public service delivery in pilot regions that are documented and taken up in the national decentralization reform process.

The tasks for project phase II

- Enhancing quality and availability of the services in the target rayons based on participatory planning and decision-making.
- Introducing efficient models for best practices/knowledge management in decentralization processes and local self-governance to increase local capacities.
- Supporting nation-wide reform process in decentralization and local self-governance.

DESPRO project operates at the national level, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, in Vinnytsya and Sumy oblasts.

Contacts:

B. Hrynchenko str, 2, # 2
01001 Kyiv, Ukraine
phone. (+38 045) 270 55 21,
270 55 27
fax (+38 045) 279 67 27
www.despro.org.ua

DESPRO and UNDP/MGSDP join forces in support of inter-municipal cooperation projects

The Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project in Ukraine, DESPRO, and the UNDP's Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP/MGSDP) have established an inter-project task force on solid waste management. The first meeting of the joint task force was held in the city of Dolyna in Ivano-Frankivsk region on September 22, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the joint activities of the DESPRO and UNDP/MGSDP projects and the partner communities of the city of Tulchyn and Tulchyn rayon in order to begin planning a solid waste management project. It is expected that this inter-municipal cooperation project, which aims to establish an integrated solid waste management system, will cover the city of Tulchyn and neighbouring communities in the villages of Ky-nashiv and Suvorovske. DESPRO and UNDP/MGSDP will provide expert support in developing the project.

The activities of the DESPRO and UNDP/MGSDP projects are complementary, as UNDP/MGSDP operates at municipal level while DESPRO works with rural communities.

Members of the inter-project task force developed a joint plan of action to be implemented by the end of November 2010. Planned activities include providing community partners with information about the project's concept, gathering additional information and preparing a feasibility study.

Participants in the meeting were: Juerg Christen (Project Director, DESPRO), Olena Lytvynenko (Project Manager, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Valeriy Vesnianyi (Mayor of Tulchyn), Vitaliy Poberezhnyk (Head of Tulchyn Rayon Council), Iryna Skaliy (Head of MGSDP), Oksana Garnets (Senior Project Coordinator, DESPRO), Vyacheslav Sorokovsky (Decentralisation Expert, DESPRO), Olena Ursu (Sustainable Development Specialist, UNDP/MGSDP), Andriy Artov (Solid Waste Expert, DESPRO). •

16 bidder communities receive advisory support from DESPRO experts

Visits by DESPRO experts to Vinnytsya oblast and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in October resulted in consultative support being given to 16 communities that are participating in the DESPRO project tender process.

The DESPRO specialists provided advice to nine communities in Vinnytsya oblast (four in Illintsi rayon, three in Kalynivka rayon, two in Tulchyn rayon) on October 12-13, and to seven communities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (two in Bakhchysaray rayon, three in Lenino rayon, two in Nyzhnyohirsk rayon) on October 18-19.

The 16 bidders were earlier selected from 25 communities that applied to participate in the tender. Nine of the original applications were rejected because they failed to comply with the requirements of the tender or to coincide with the priorities of DESPRO activities. Establishing a water supply system to cater for the entire local community was one of the main criteria for participation in the tender, which is aimed at supporting local initiatives. No less important was the willingness of local people to implement the project – in other words, social mobilisation.

The communities that received expert support from DESPRO needed to finalise their project applications before November 1, 2010. The Tender Committee meeting is scheduled for November this year. •



Swiss Cooperation Office and Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to sign agreement on support for local self-government development



The Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO) and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine are preparing to sign an agreement on joint activities to support the development of local self-government in Ukraine in 2010-2014. A meeting held on October 7, 2010 resulted in the drafting of a cooperation agreement between the two bodies.

According to the draft agreement, the SCO and the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project in Ukraine, DESPRO, will continue to support the activities of the government of Ukraine on reforming local self-government, streamlining the administrative-territorial structure, improving the quality of public services and making preparations for those reforms. Among other outcomes, cooperation is intended to bring about improvements in civil servants' administrative skills and knowledge, raise Ukrainian citizens' awareness of issues in the run-up to reforms and ensure the Swiss partners' participation in drafting legislation on administrative-territorial reforms.

Participants in the meeting included: Vyacheslav Negoda (Director of the Regional Policy and Local Self-Government Department of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine), Manuel Etter (Country Director, SCO), Christian Disler (SCO Programme Coordinator, CIS division), Olena Lytvynenko (Programme Manager, SCO), Oksana Garnets (Senior Project Coordinator of the Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support to Ukraine Project DESPRO). •