

PROJECT INFORMATION

As at February 2012

CHAMP – Sustainability Management for Local Authorities in Eastern Europe



Training in Sibiu. Source: FPA Sibiu

Background

Despite the recommendations of the EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, the Leipzig-Charta or similar documents, sustainability management is rarely applied. The extension of the environmental management system EMAS to the whole urban area and to the strategic (i.e. “indirect”) environmental aspects is an important step toward sustainability management. Only a holistic perspective will be able to deal with cross-cutting challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss.

Project

Together with the Hungarian partner Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency (LBDCA), public administrations on every federal tier – especially local authorities – were informed about the benefits of sustainability management. In Hungary, nine local authorities, two regional authorities and two private enterprises participated successfully in CHAMP-workshops, designed by the Hungarian partner LBDCA – who will offer further workshops for local authorities in the future.

The local authorities intend to get their urban development plan EMAS certified during 2012. In Poland and Rumania, the Lake Constance Foundation supported experienced organisations during the process of becoming a national training hub for integrated management for sustainability (IMS). In the future, the training hubs will offer local authorities who want to implement an IMS support and expertise. To form a foundation, information events were organized in Poland, Romania and the Balkans region and dissemination materials were produced in the respective national language.

In the light of economic and social challenges and severe environmental problems, climate change and biodiversity are not among the top priorities in the countries of the new partners. Therefore, sustainability management aims at showing connections between environmental, social and economic issues. Adequate management of waste and waste water for example, will directly contribute to quality of life and is perceived as an advantage by investors looking for new sites for their businesses. Furthermore, such a management will demonstrate towards funding agencies, that project funding is spent on target and properly administrated.

In the foreseeable future, the new trainings hubs will depend on support. But their commitment and the positive feedback from local authorities are a good sign, that the initiative will be successful.

- Target country/region: Hungary, Poland, Romania
- Duration: 07/2010 - 02/2012
- Beneficiary: Local and regional authorities and organizations that provide training for local authorities
- Implementing organisation: Lake Constance Foundation,
www.bodensee-stiftung.org
- Project identification: FKZ 380 01 231