

Pilot phase of a training and competence centre for the water sector in Karlovac, Croatia (TCC Karlovac)



Example for interactive training courses on different topics of water management (Photo: Dr. Burghard, Dr. Burghard-ibd)

Background

The approaching accession of Croatia to the EU requires a modernisation and upgrade of the infrastructure, also in the waste water sector, in order to meet EU standards. For the implementation of the legal framework of the “Acquis Communautaire” alone in the waste water sector ca. 200 waste water treatment plants need to be newly constructed and ca. 100 waste water treatment plants need to be modernised during the coming years. According to the responsible Croatian Ministry the implementation of the “National Water Strategy” requires investments of altogether ca. 4.5 bill. EUR. At present there is neither a specialised professional qualification for the maintenance and operational staff nor for the technical management existing in the water sector of Croatia. But because the EU environmental standards can only be implemented with adequately qualified staff and because the demand for this staff is expected to increase in the coming years investments into qualification measures are necessary.

This is why a training and competence centre (TCC) with different qualification levels for basic

and advanced training in the water and waste water sector shall be created.

Project

The objective of this project was the implementation of the pilot phase for the establishment of a TCC in Karlovac, Croatia, with assistance of German Water Partnership (GWP) and its member organisations. The pilot phase comprised a need assessment, the development of training material, the realisation of train-the-trainer seminars and test trainings, the preparation of a concept for the long-term establishment of TCC and first marketing activities. By means of the train-the-trainer seminars 21 employees of Croatian water utility companies have been qualified to be trainers of TCC. In 9 test trainings they trained together with GWP partner companies a total of 128 employees of altogether 47 Croatian water and waste water utility companies in topics like water loss management in the drinking water sector, decentralised waste water treatment, operation and maintenance of pumping stations, self-supervision on waste water treatment plants, health and safety measures for waste water sector staff as well as sewage network management. In negotiations with relevant Croatian political and commercial stakeholders the organisational and financial preconditions for a long-term establishment of TCC shall now be shaped.

- Target country: Croatia
- Duration: 06/2011 – 03/2013
- Beneficiaries: Stakeholders of the Croatian water sector, inter alia Water Utility Company of the City of Karlovac, University of Applied Sciences of Karlovac
- Implementing organisations: German Water Partnership (GWP) e.V., GWP member companies, inter alia Dr. Burghard ibd
- Project number: 380 01 265