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По мери природе

WESTERN BALKANS ENVIRONMENTAL HOT SPOTS PROGRAMME

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Hot Spots project contribution in addressing national priorities

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- National Priorities of the Republic of Serbia have been defined in strategic national documents:
 - National Program for Environmental Protection (Draft proposal – not yet adopted),
 - National Strategy of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods (NSSUNRG), (Draft proposal – not yet adopted),
 - National Sustainable Development Strategy (2008),
 - National Waste Management Strategy (2003),
 - Strategy of Clean Technologies Introduction in Serbia (2009),
 - Strategy for the development of the mining sector in Serbia (in development process) and other.
- Pollution of the Grand Backa Canal (GBC) in Vrbas is one of the top 3 national environmental hot spots.
- Activities in the Hot Spot project also contributed to the achievement of the MDG7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability as announced by the Government of Serbia in the MDG national progress report (2006): in reducing % of population without proper healthy water supply, connection to the sewerage network and organized waste collection.

Site description and concrete achievements

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- Status of environment: The canal is filled by heavy polluted sediments due to discharge of untreated industrial and communal waste waters.
- The whole project, as initiated by the municipality and AP Vojvodina, consists of 3 subprojects:
 1. **Construction of new sewerage network for collection of pretreated industrial and communal waste waters of Vrbas and surrounding settlements**
(Construction of the main waste water collector - missing part of sewerage network Vrbas – Kula, **phase IV.1 achieved with UNDP contribution**, while phases IV.2 and V are in progress with financial contribution of Serbian Government).
 2. Construction of Central Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) for Vrbas and Kula waste waters is a next step (funds provided by the EC IPA 2009),
 3. Clean up and remediation of the GBC (after CWWTP).

Achievements of the Hot Spot Project

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- Harmonization of environmental legislation with the EU *acquis comunitaire*, implementation and adoption of by-laws, are some of identified and addressed country needs (CB thematic area from needs assessment report).

CB projects contribution:

- Workshop on **“EU legislation in the Area of Water Protection against Pollution with Priority Substances”** is completed and it included submission of the final draft Sub-law on Priority Substances Polluting Surface Water to the MoE&SP.
- Simulation of **“Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) permitting process”** for one regional landfill and one pesticide manufacturer – final mission is on going.
- Development of **“Guideline on the Environmental Impact Assessment for Wind Farms”** is on going.
- **“The Assessment of the Environmental Hot Spots (hydro-geological aspect), pilot project in Pancevo southern industrial zone”** includes summary of hydro geological conditions in polluted zone, geo data base and trainings - on going.

Achievements of the Hot Spot Project

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- Regional aspect of the project is an added value especially in respect of exchange of experience during study tours and regional meetings.
- Strengthening capacities on local and institutional level is achieved by:
 - Study tour to Vienna and visit to CWWTP for local stakeholders while desing and preparation of the CWWTP is in progress.
 - NGO demonstration projects which included activities on marking of border lines, installation of visitors points and info panels in protected areas, and education of children in Vrbas municipality, in Natural Park “Jegricka” and Natural Monument “Carnok”.
- Public awarenes campaign will promote connection to the new sewerage network and CWWTP starting from November 2009.

Photos 1&2:
Kids from grammar school
in Ravno selo



National priorities in Serbia

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Draft National Strategy for Environmental Protection:

- 1) Full integration of environmental policy with economic and other sectoral policies;
- 2) Strengthening of institutional capacity for development and enforcement of sectoral and environmental policy and development of emergency response systems;
- 3) Upgrading environmental monitoring and enforcement system;
- 4) Developing comprehensive system of environmental legislation through adoption of sectoral laws and by-laws, improved law enforcement monitoring;
- 5) Establishing effective system of environmental financing and economic incentives;
- 6) Improve formal and informal environmental education.

The biggest challenges

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Legislation:

Harmonization of environmental legislation with EU directives is under way, MoE&SP adopted 4 laws in 2004 (EP, SEA, EIA, IPPC) and 16 new laws in 2009.

- Transposition of legislation in other sectors (WFD – MoAF&WM, etc.);
- To continue approximating legislation to EU legislation and standards;
- To enact required by-laws necessary for implementation of adopted laws;
- To adopt and begin implementation the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Action Plans (in progress);

Knowledge:

- To strengthen administrative capacity, institutions and bodies responsible for planning, permitting, inspecting, monitoring and project management;

The biggest challenges

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Financial:

- To establishing effective system of environmental financing and economic incentives;
- To develop a multi-annual plan for financing investments;
- Adequate addressing of environmental liabilities in the privatization process on the basis of the “polluter pays” principle;
- Raising of environmental expenditure: it appears to be well below 1% of the GDP, which is lagging behind other transitional countries where such expenditure amounted to around 2% of GDP.

Characteristics of new development areas/locations

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- New development areas are located along important transportation corridors and are close to the urban core
- Establishment of new forms of production complexes, industrial zones, industrial parks, information technological parks
- Incenting local institutions towards “entrepreneur management”
- **Insufficient usage of abundant and devastated industrial sites (brownfields)**
- **Jeopardizing the environment**

Challenges in relation to the “brownfields”

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Legal:

- Establishment of legal frameworks and methodologies,
- Setting up cleanup standards,
- The need to harmonize legitimate interests of different actors,
- The lack of mechanism for coordination of local and other levels of competencies,
- The need to establish adequate communication models, exchange of information and understanding the specific problems within planning process and realization of the remediation,
- Cross sectoral harmonization and clarification of competencies related to planning and remediation.

Challenges in relation to the “brownfields”

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Economic:

- Higher investments requested (than in greenfields),
- Designing effective financing system for the remediation of contaminated sites.
- Solving environmental liabilities for past pollution.
 - Decontamination
 - Demolishing of existing facilities
 - Displacement of residents
 - Construction of new infrastructure

Challenges in relation to the “brownfields”

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Ownership:

- Solving of long and complex process of legal/restitution and ownership and issues,
- The lack of general and specific information on brownfields,
- Clean up of past pollution and modernization of industrial technology to meet the emission limit values and reduce water and energy consumption should be safeguarded in the privatization contract.

Next steps... "brownfields"

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- While the environmental *acquis* is being implemented, compliance with the *acquis* needs further enforcement, monitoring and investment.
- Definition and classification of contaminated sites.
- Risk assessment for hot spot sites.
- Designing an effective financing system for the remediation of contaminated sites.
- Historical pollution of hot spot mining sites, the modernisation of the legal framework and a move away from sector monitoring, inspection and management of specific hot spot areas, towards a more integrated approach.

Environmental priority “brownfields”

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- Industrial pollution of the Grand Backa Canal in Vrbas is recognized as one of the top 3 national environmental hot spots (no official programme document on this issue). Other two hot spots are:
 - Pancevo – petro-chemical complex,
 - RTB Bor – mining tailings and open pit mines.

Environmental challenges for Serbia:

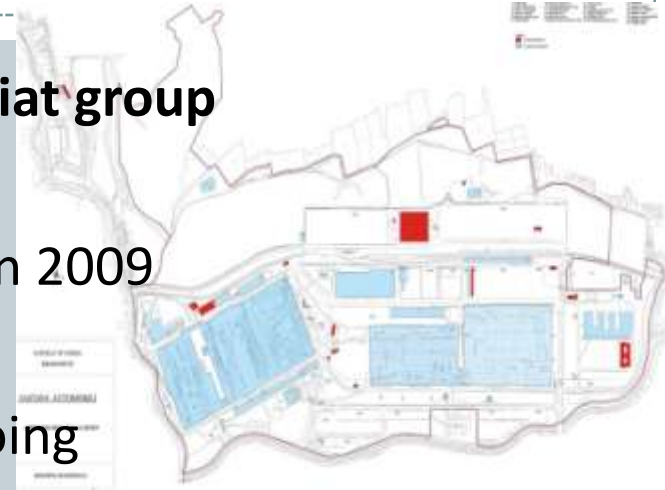
- Extensive industrial emissions of SO₂, NO_x, VOC, PAH and other pollutants in hot spots of Bor, Sabac, Pancevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, etc.
- Contamination of soil, watercourses and groundwater by hazardous chemicals in hot spot of Bor, Pancevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, Belgrade, Kragujevac, etc.
- Pollution of surface waters by untreated industrial sewage,
- Contamination of soil, watercourses and groundwater caused by NATO air raids, especially hydrocarbons (Novi Sad), PCB (Kragujevac, Bor), dicloethane and mercury (Pancevo), nickel and chromium (Kragujevac), etc.

“Brownfield” sites - ongoing activities

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Zastava Kragujevac, car factory privatization by Fiat group

- Activities started in autumn 2008.
- Lab analysis and risk assessment finalized in Jun 2009
- Main pollution with hydrocarbons
- Discussion about method of remediation, on going



Plants factory Fiaz in Prokuplje bought by German Leoni company in 2009,

- in bankruptcy, announced investments in next three years 15 million Euros in the production of cables for automobiles.
- Site was contaminated with asbestos.
- MoE&SP financed remediation of 400 000 Euros.
- The site remediation is completed in 2009.

Priorities for regional cooperation

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- Exchange of experience, good institutional practices and successful case studies,
- Development of environmental data bases,
- Coordinated participation in international programmes.

Next steps:

- MoE&SP recognizes project proposal MB IPA 2010 “Brownfield” on Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Developing Capacities in the Western Balkans for financing, managing and remediating Industrial, Mining and Chemical Legacies (“Brownfields”) as good opportunity for regional cooperation.
- MoE&SP also recognizes a new regional cooperation mechanisms, the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) developed as a sequel to the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme and Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession (ECENA), as good opportunity for regional cooperation.