

# Support to the Public Regional Communal Service Company and four municipalities in BiH

## Project activities

### 1. Preparatory Activities (Inception Phase)

- 1.1 Setting up of the project team. Project team will be consisted of:
  - REC Staff (including REC HQ and REC CO BiH)
  - External consultants
  - Local coordinators – persons nominated by Mayors and Directors of Communal Services Companies
- 1.2 Identification, communication and gathering the expression of interest from wider stakeholders to participate in project implementation.
- 1.3 Establishment of Vrbas Forum. The Forum will be consisted of representatives of municipalities, Public Regional Communal Service Company, communal service companies, business sector, health institutions and NGOs. Vrbas Forum will have regular meetings in order to discuss project materials related to different project activities (foreseen 5 meetings) and *ad hock* meetings in accordance with project needs.
- 1.4 Organization of the start up meeting for stakeholder groups with the purpose to present the project. It is foreseen to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between REC and municipalities. By the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, municipalities will express their commitment to cooperate with REC in this project implementation.

### 2. Technical Activities

#### 2.1 Assessment Phase

1. Overview of governmental policies and regulations on environmental protection, water use/water management in the BiH/FBiH – in light of a new BiH water legislation
2. Overview of the institutional framework including human and technical resources, level of services, charges for provided services for environmental protection, water resources management in the Cantons and municipalities
3. Assessment of the operations of the existing water supply, wastewater collection and discharge systems (future needs, affordability, current financial performances of the service providers, )
4. Assessment of priorities; water supply, health and environmental problems as result of the missing waste water infrastructure

#### 2.2 Conceptual Solution Design Phase

1. Identification of the potential technical solutions for development of waste water collection system and waste water treatment plants
2. Description of identified alternative technical conceptual solutions for the recognized waste water problems, including all related components: water resources pollution by discharge of untreated wastewater; impact of the waste water discharges on the recipient river quality, potential impact on the future economic and urban development, impact and potential threats on the human health
3. Comparative analysis of proposed alternative conceptual solutions and recommendations on preferred option for each project technical component
4. Recommendations for strengthening of the Public Regional Communal Service Company / municipal communal service companies

### **2.3 Development of Pre-feasibility Study**

Pre feasibility study will include technical design of the infrastructure on the idea design level, assessment of the investment costs, preliminary cost benefit and cost effectiveness analysis, affordability aspects and tariff policy aspects. Throughout the project, emphasis will be given to participation of a wider group of community stakeholders into the project design and cooperation. Pre feasibility study will cover not only infrastructure development but also needs for future institutional and capacity building and sustainable functioning of the existing Public Regional Communal Service Company, municipal communal service companies and municipalities.

#### **Activities:**

1. A verification of the relevance of the proposed infrastructure environmental investment projects in addressing the existing problems in technical, economic, social and environmental terms – this will be done through comparison with existing official strategic documents (spatial plan, development strategies, other projects results etc)
2. Technical solution on the level of the idea design including preliminary cost assessment
3. Identification and development of the priority projects
4. Detailed plan for project implementation activities, including indicators for project objectives and results, required resources, project timing/phasing, and estimated costs
5. Detailed assessment of the technical, financial, economic, social, institutional and managerial feasibility of the proposed environmental infrastructure projects in addressing the identified waste water problems in the four municipalities
6. Plan for the further institutional development of the Public Regional Communal Service Company, municipal communal service companies and municipalities, assessment and recommendations for the development of the Cost Recovery Plans, assessment and proposals for the new tariff policy linked to the implementation of the pre feasibility study activities

### **3. Capacity building activities**

There is a need to assist these municipalities not only in the implementation of the water related EU standards, but new domestic legislation, as well. In order to protect waters in these communities and to prevent their further deterioration attention should be given to the water policy development, specially choosing an appropriate wastewater treatment technology, being the best for the local conditions, not only from the environmental, but also social and economic point of view.

#### **3.1 Training sessions**

In order to institutional strengthening and capacity building of the Public Regional Communal Service Company, communal service companies, municipalities and other stakeholders, several training sessions will be held as follows:

- Two-days training on legal issues – EU legislation requirements - Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, IPPC, Polluter Pays Principle, etc.; as well as Water regulations in BiH
- Two-days training on technological solution for wastewater treatment
- Two-days training related to potentials of municipalities in developing of waste water infrastructure (municipality financial sustainability, development and implementation capital improvement programmes, capital investments, efficiency of communal service companies, human resources and organizational structure, financial resources, tariffs politics, etc.)
- Two-days training on developing public relations between municipalities and inhabitants (public relation campaigns, NIMBY syndrome, responsible in developing infrastructure, willing to pay the tariffs, communication with donors, tariffs increase process, etc.)

- Three-days training on development, preparation and implementation of waste water infrastructure projects

### **3.2 Workshops for stakeholders**

It is envisaged to have 4 workshops according to project activities in order to present and discussed project materials with wider stakeholder groups.

1. Workshop – presentation of the current state which includes all aspects related to waste water issues (legal, institutional, technical, etc.)
2. Two-days workshop - presentation of the Conceptual solutions
3. Two-days workshop – presentation of the Pre-feasibility study
4. Final conference - presentation of the results and outcomes of the project.

### **3.3 Study tour to one of the new EU member state**

The Study Tour (3 days) will be organized with aim to present on the spot solutions related to waste water treatment. Participants of the Study Tour will be able to see:

- Institutional aspects
- Management aspects
- Technology and technical solutions on the spot.