

Report on Center of Competence on Solid waste Management meeting

INTRODUCTION

On June 4-5, 2015, dldp organized a workshop with all members of center of competence (CC) on Solid Waste Management (SWM). Objective of this workshop was the presentation and validation of practices developed by dldp in the sector of waste management such as interLGU collaboration, recycling, composting, social inclusion in waste sector, recycling championship and improvement of cost and tariff model. Special topic of this meeting was also the discussion of amendments on Law on functioning of Water Regulatory Authorities, regarding additional competences linked with the management of solid waste sector.



Participants in this workshop were members of Center of Competence on Solid waste management (12 LGUs, 1 Qark and 1 REA), line ministries (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure) and de-concentrated agencies (Regional Environmental Agencies), service providers (Coplan, URI, MIA, AGC) and Association of Albanian Communes (AAC). Special guests of this event were members of the Commission of WRA (4) and representatives of GIZ.

Workshop was planned as a two days event combining theoretical part of presenting developed practices with sessions of discussions and clarifications. Second day of the workshop have foreseen also a field trip.

dldp aimed that through deep discussions share the findings and enrich the recommendations from developed practices. Workshop was divided in 5 sessions.

the challenge that the new territorial division presents. The updated model will be a useful tool for newly elected officials which will be responsible for much larger territories than the existing LGUs.



More flexibility is needed, due to the complexity of the areas. Important element in the improvement of this model was the extension of the calculation modules with recycling and composting. Speakers, who took the floor besides the good evaluation of presented model, suggested the introduction of elements of the city's cleaning and washing the streets within the cost model, and finding the possibility of passage of this model calculation from MS Excel as a separate application. Other suggestions were linked with the challenge of new LGUs in having an accurate data base, fiscal policies from the municipalities in order that not overloading only the categories that always pay, or not putting all the fiscal weight in the shoulders of the businesses. Other suggestions were focused more on the need for a detailed study for the types of costumers, how to divide the % of the fee that each category is responsible for, in order that polluter pays principle is fairly implemented. All the participants were of the opinion that additional measures are needed in order to force people pay the tariff. Representatives from Kukes and Dibra regions, despite regional trainings offered by dldp last July, had used cost model as a reference tool, but not implemented it.



Session II: Practice 1: Recycling and social inclusion

Main objectives of this project were to pilot the possibility of expanding the coverage of waste collection covering suburb areas (Zone C) of the municipality of Lezha, through door to door collection for recyclables waste therefore to cope with the requirements of the Strategy and



Parallel to the above, this project will help the city of Lezha to formalize and make sustainable the management of the Center for Selection of Recyclable Waste which is operational since 2012 as well as support community mobilization and social inclusion of Roma community (informal sector) in ensuring an integrated waste management scheme in Lezha.

Based on the field work and figures presented, project has assisted Lezha municipality to consolidate recycling scheme through the way of inclusion

| Zone | bio waste (t/day) | recyclables (t/day) | Total in the zone (t/day) |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Zone A | 3 | 2,6 | 5,6 |
| Zone B | 2,6 | 2,3 | 4,9 |
| Zone C | 2 | 1,7 | 3,7 |
| Lezhe | 7,6 | 6,6 | 14,2 |

of socially marginalizes population like giving the center in management to Roma community members, employing Roma people and people from remote areas in both collection schemes (in Zona C, markets and collection points for recyclables waste).

Edlir Vokopola from URI, presented

chronologically the support to Lezha, involvement of Roma community and the measures that new management of recycling center is undertaking to increase the quantities of recycled waste.

Zone C

| | recyclables (t/day) | Expetcted recuperation (%) | recuperation ton/day |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Zone C | 1,7 | 40% | 0,7 |

The activities supported municipality of Lezha to expand separate collection of recyclable waste and increase quantity of recycled material processed. At the same time, municipality in collaboration with service provider and Roma community in Lezha agreed to find a sustainable solution for the management of the Center for Selection of Recyclable Waste. Actually the center is managed by Roma community, increasing the processed recycled quantities progressively.

Considering the level of recuperation from zone C (once a week door to door) and from collection points in the city that are visited from Roma community every day, we see the difference.

DISCUSSIONS

Engagement of Roma community to increase the quantities of recyclable waste by providing the community center management and formalization of differentiated collection system was positive. If we compare the figures the tendency is positive. The difficulties faced with the extension of the service in Zone C, are mostly linked with non-favorable current context with local elections. The discussions recommended the strengthening of the role of municipality in this system, as the regulatory body of organizing and monitoring the service. Other recommendations were the expansion of the system of collection bags door to door, as an efficient system that guarantees an amount of 450 ton/year recyclables waste.

Session III: Practice 2: Recycling championship

Mr. Erion Berisha presented the experience of Shkodra with recycling championship and some of the results of feasibility study. The goal of the study was to investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable scheme and motivating tools – such as a monetary value – for the youth to participate continuously in recycling wasteful materials such as paper, plastic, metals and glass.



In addressing these issues, the feasibility study was focused on details on identifying:

- Actors involved in the collection of waste on 12 Qarks proposed to hold the league
- Identify all the government authorities required to support the scheme to achieve success
- Survey of the desire of these authorities to participate
- Identify all the potential cities that shall qualify to participate

- Develop the logistic scheme to organize the championship
- Develop the scheme of money management
- Analyze the current volumes of collection of recyclable materials in all the cities to be studied
- Identify the volumes that realistically can be collected by the students
- SWOT analysis
- Analyze the financial viability and institutional viability of the project to prove the sustainability of the scheme
- Analyze the financial feasibility to create this scheme.

After having concluded the research, conducted the necessary interviews, gathered and analyzed the data, weight in the know-how from the initial tournament in Shkodra we advise as following:

A tournament can only sustainable if organized in the cities of:

- Tirana
- Fier
- Elbasan
- Korça
- Vlora
- Berat
- Gjirokaster
- Saranda
- Durres
- Lezhe
- Shkodra

Other Districts and Cities subject to this study, would not meet the minimum threshold for a sustainable scheme

Recommendations

- The Government (at all levels) shall support the tournament from get-go. This support will count as a significant investment toward the future to educate younger people to be more involved, socially and environmentally responsible
- The tournament shall receive the assistance of outside donors for at least three years until it creates its own structure, tradition, continuity and financial means
- An investment at this stage by the donors, will receive a great value for the money spent
- Developing the right tools to identify with the project such as branding and other promotional materials, will develop the culture for this tournament to go national in a relatively short period of time.

Sustainability can be solved through the introduction of the Roma community as the transportation agent; and as such, they will guarantee a timely and economic pickup contributing for continued motivation and participation. On the other hand, a copyrighted event by organizers can guarantee that the recycling championship is continuous in years by bringing new actors as financiers after the initial support in the first three years by international donors and government support.

Session IV: Water regulatory authority and solid waste sector

Mrs. Silvana Simaku, Commissioner of WRA, presented the developments in the water sector and challenges that water utilities will face now with the transition and new territorial reforms. She explained how the WRA monitors the performance indicator for water and waste water and the relationship of this institution with LGUs and water utilities.



Mrs. Simaku also summarized the discussions and debates regarding the future role of WRA for waste sector. Based on draft law that Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure have sent in the parliament for approval, role of WRA is a regulatory body that approves the tariffs to exploit the landfills or other treatment facilities. After this short presentations, discussions were concentrated more in the position of the authority that can make mandatory the use of a methodology for cost and tariff calculation for the entire waste management chain from collection and transportation, and not only for their final treatment. From the discussions there were two main positions. One group identified WRA as such authority, while the other group was in favor of granting this authority through a binding act line to one of the line ministries without specifying which one; the Ministry Environment or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Commissioners of the WRA, representative of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, experts or organizations as URI, Coplan, as well as specialists of LGUs were part of discussions.

- Puke- Fushe Arrez: no of population receiving service is expected to be increased with 20%, meanwhile the price per unit is expected to be reduced from 8-81 % of actual price.
 - Reduction of illegal disposal sites
 - Local initiatives such as composting
2. Level of partnership between LGUs has been limited due to:
 - Potentials for benefiting from the schemes
 - Lack of resources and will of collaboration
 - Institutional support
 3. Development of interLGU schemes needs;
 - Joint assessment of the benefits from all the parties included
 - Involvement of all the parties since the beginning of the process ensuring interest, consensus and transparency;
 - Despite the local capacities of the partners, their role in decision-making should be respected;
 - Consensus building at the beginning with most interested parts;
 4. Expectation, unclerness and preparations for the reform suspended implementation of interLGU schemes:
 5. Despite this, LGUs which were part of this process now are ready to enter in a new phase of collaboration after territorial reform, because;
 - There is shown interest to collaborate and improve the service;
 - Local capacities are increased and decision making process are facilitated,
 - Institutional support for developing joint schemes
 - Financial planning tools (cost and tariff model) will facilitate the decision making process to immediately start the joint schmes for service delivery
 - Processes developed during interLGU collaboration will be implemented after TAR in the sector (disposal, transfer stations, recycling centers, joint schemes etc.)

DISCUSSIONS:

Discussion in this session were focused mainly on providing recommendations how to achieve integration of new service for all administrative units of a big new municipality after the election of June 21st, trying to answer to such challenges like organization of the service in all the units should be based on a gradually scale or immediately, contracting of service providers to be done joint or partially, the same fee or different in different areas, or service will be monitored by the municipality or delegated to Administrative Units representatives.

Regarding the issue of organization of the service in the future big municipalities after territorial reform, who would be the main responsible big municipality or administrative unit, there were lively discussions.

For the supervision of the service there were two proposals;

1.to appoint one person from big municipalities that monitors the service in entire territory like actual supervisors today, or

2. One person per administrative unit which assesses the basic needs and takes care for the quality of the service.

For integration of the service, if LGUs would prefer an aggressive or gradual transition period till integrating the service from several contracts in one the opinions were like;

- We do have several contracts, let's stop them and start from the beginning, or
- Gradually we close the existing contracts. This second opinion gained more consensus among the speakers.

Last issue of service integration, was linked with the process of tariff setting. Basic opinion was to have the same tariff for all the existing LGU, and tomorrow, part of one big municipality. Despite the different costs for different areas the basic opinion was to have only one tariff. Regarding the proposed system with different tariffs, for different areas (administrative units) within one municipality, the speakers stressed the importance of a good monitoring system and transparency of newly elected mayors as a precondition for the fiscal policy.

Session VI: Practice 4: Agricultural and individual composting



The second day of the workshop was held at the premises of Community Center in Shirq village, commune of Dajç. There were presented two practices developed for agricultural composting in Dajç by Millieukontakt Albania and (community) individual composting in Puka developed by Coplan. Through comparison of the findings of each group of experts, each participant had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the advantages and disadvantages of each

application. Presentation of positive experiences of Dajç except theoretical findings was accompanied by a visit to one of the farms which piloted this model.



Mr.Valbona Mazreku and Rrezearta Ago from Millieukontakt Albania presented:

Agricultural composting in Dajç

Feasibility study demonstrates the economical potentials of agricultural composting in the farms, including capital costs and marketing. This document aims to capitalize the challenges and potentials

in integrating composting with other activities within the farms, as well as to increase the sustainability of labor forces. Another objective of this study which will be ready in late June is also to analyze the technical and economical requests of the actual composting method.

Individual composting vs. composting in village level

Till now the composting is done in individual/farmer bases. When a higher standard in business relationships will be achieved, then the need for creating bigger units in family or community/village bases will be evident.

Recommendations

- Minimizing regulatory constraints related to agricultural composting.
- Provide support (state /local) for composting equipment and preparation of disposed material (division of costs, economic incentives, etc.).
- Further developing the process of compost production from farmers.
- Support research and demonstration programs, which explore new applications in composting, particularly in the agricultural sector.
- Continuation of active training and coaching for farmers versus passive training.
- Awareness activities with all stakeholders on fact that composting is a process that serves the community and the environment.
- Pilot initiative should be an example to switch from individual composting within farms in neighborhood or village level.

Redion Biba from Coplan, presented the first results and next steps of the initiative started in Puka for Community composting

Potentials and challenges

- Further extension of community composting?
- Knowledge and awareness, schools and volunteers ...
- Inclusion of the local businesses, “win-win “schemes...
- Tariff reduction, initial investments
- Can be community composting quarter/village base a long term solution

Next steps

1. Promotion
 - o Media
 - o Website
 - o Campaigns
2. Commitment of stakeholders:
 - o Families – communication
 - o Schools, Regional Education Directorates
 - o Businesses/local economies- (AgroPuka)





Photo 3 Composting in Dajç, February 2015



Photo 4 Composting in Dajç, June 2015



Annexes:

Annex 1: Agenda of the workshop of 4-5 June 2015

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: Presentations

WORKSHOP

Presentation and validation of 4 practices developed in waste management sector
[dldp Center of Competence on SWM]

Velipoje, 4-5 June 2015
Hotel Godija, Velipojë
[www.hotelgodija.com]

PROGRAM

| Time | Event |
|--|--|
| Thursady, date 4 June 2015 | |
| 09:00 | Meeting point of all the participants – Shkoder, Hotel Rozafa and departure for Velipoja beach¹ |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Arrival and registration/hotel accomodation Registration of participants and welcoming coffee |
| Session I | |
| Practice 1. InterLGU collaboration and service extension | |
| Invited: Swiss Embassy, SECO/SDC, Ministries of lines (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of urban development), Water Regulatory Authority | |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Objective of the event and welcoming speeches. (dldp) |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Findings and recommendations from implementation in practice of interLGU collaboration schemes in Puka and Malësia e Madhe Experiences will be presented by Redion Biba, Coplan |
| 11.30 - 12.00 | Questions and discussion |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Coffee break |
| Session II | |
| Practice 2: Recycling and social inclusion | |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Extension of the service in suburb areas and dldp support for Lezha municipality initiatives on recycling and social inclusion Experiences will be presented by Edlir Vokopola - URI |
| 12:45 – 13:15 | Findings from feasibility study on recycling championship Experiences will be presented by Erion Berisha – AGC |
| 13.15 – 13.45 | Questions and discussion |
| Lunch break | |
| Session III | |
| Practice 3: cost and tariff calculation model | |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | dldp model on cost and tariff calculation. Suggested improvements from piloting in several LGUs Experiences will be presented by Eduart Cani - REC |
| 15.30 – 15.30 | Questions and discussion |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break |
| Session IV | |
| Water regulatory authority and solid waste sector | |
| 16.00 – 16:30 | Draft law on regulatory competencies of WRA on solid waste sector Members of WRA (confirmed) Questions and discussion |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Discussion moderated by Arben Kopliku - dldp |
| 17.00 | Closure of the 1 st day of the workshop |
| 20.00 | Joint dinner |

¹ A bus is organized by dldp for travelling from Shkoder to Velipoja. Velipoja is approx.30 km far from Shkodra.

Friday, date 5 June 2015

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 07:00 – 09:00 | Breakfast in the premises of the hotel |
| 09:00 | Departure. |
| 09.00-10.00 | Travelling by bus from Velipoja to Dajç i Bregut te Bunës (Communjity Center Shirq) |

Session V

Practice 4: Agricultural and individual composting

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 10.00-11.00 | Agricultural composting practices developed in Dajç. Findings and recommendations from the implementation. Experiences will be presented by Valbona Mazreku, Rrezearta Ago – Millieukontakt Albania |
| 11.00-11.30 | Individual composting in Puka municipality. Potentials and challenges. Experiences will be presented by Redion Biba – Coplan |
| 11.30 – 12.00 | Coffee break |
| 12.00-13.00 | Visits in some of the farms where agricultural composting model is implemented in Dajç. |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | Joint lunch in Shkodër |
| 15.00 | Closure of the event |

Note: All expenses (travel, accommodation and meals) will be covered by dldp programme.

Liste e pjesemarrësve ne wsh per menaxhimin e mbetjeve urbane (Qendra e kompetences)

Velipoje, 4-5 Qershor 2015

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