

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of the WOP-SEE platform! WOP-SEE is facilitating Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) in South East Europe to help water and sanitation utilities help one another. This newsletter gives an overview of WOPs activities going on in the region.

What does WOP-SEE do?



WOP-SEE is a network of partners working to facilitate WOPs in South East Europe. Our overall goal is to make it easier, and more rewarding, for utilities to learn from one another on a not-for-profit basis. WOP-SEE aims to help utilities find appropriate partner utilities to pair with, organizes utility-led training events, provides guidance on effective twinning, sources funds for twinning, and generally raises awareness about WOPs as an effective means of raising the capacity of water operators to provide better services for all.

1st Steering Committee Meeting in Athens



A first Steering Committee meeting of the WOP-SEE platform was held in Athens in March 2010, gathering representatives of utilities and support agencies from countries around the region to decide how WOPs could best benefit South East European operators. The meeting established a joint secretariat made up of EYDAP S.A., the water supply and sewerage company of Athens, the Romanian Water Association –IWA office, and UN-HABITAT's Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, and identified some priority activities.

WOPs Activities in the Protocol on Water and Health



The WOPs programme in South East Europe is now officially contributing to the implementation of the 2011-2013 Programme of Work under the Protocol on Water and Health (UNECE/WHO). The Protocol aims to prevent, control and reduce water-related diseases through the adequate supply of safe drinking water and sustainable use of resources in Europe, where an estimated 120 million individuals still suffer from inadequate water supply and sanitation. At the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in Bucharest in November, UN-HABITAT became a lead party in work on Small Scale Supplies and Equitable Access.

Serbia Conducts the first WOPs in SEE



A first set of Water Operators' Partnerships in SEE were launched by the Governess of the South Backa District of Serbia, Ms. Darija Sajin, during the Sajam Voda 2010, in Belgrade this November. Utilities from 11 South Backa municipalities were exposed to the successful water loss reduction approaches of Croatian utilities a short distance across the border then accompanied in developing their own WLR programs. The Serbian-Croatian WOPs, realized with support of Serbia's Inter-institutional Professional Network (IPM)

ABOUT GWOPA

WOP-SEE is part of the Global WOPs Alliance (GWOPA) which aims to scale up peer support between the world's water operators.

EVENTS

Water for Life "Best Practices" Award



UN-Water is accepting nominations for utilities having made outstanding contributions in water management.

WOPs events at 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum, May 3rd to 5th 2011



WOP-SEE will be organizing a 'matchmaking' and thematic event during the upcoming IWF. Interested SEE Operators are encouraged to contact the WOP-SEE secretariat. More information will soon be available on the GWOPA site.

GWOPA Congress before World Water Day in Cape Town, March 22nd, 2011



The First Global WOPs Congress will gather WOPs practitioners from around the world to broker partnerships and build awareness and



and GIZ (formerly GTZ).

Within the same set of WOPs, 9 representatives of Serbian water operators, including Belgrade, Novi Sad and Nis, participated in the 3rd International Workshop on Water loss Reduction organized by Bulgarian Water Association (BWA) in November in Sofia.

Romanians plan Pre-Investment Capacity Building WOPs in Moldova and Hungary



The Romanian Water Association has overseen the signing of WOPs agreements between Romanian and Moldovan utilities. Following a study tour to Romania by representatives of Moldovan water utilities, three formal WOPs agreements were initiated between the two countries, matching the utilities from the cities of Constanta with Cahul and Ceadar Lungam, and Chisinau with Pitesti. Twins were also formalized with two Hungarian and two Romanian cities. The WOPs will help develop the utilities' capacity to receive investment loans from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

Seek that Leak!



The Romanian Water Association organized its 3rd regional Leak Detection Competition this November in Drobeta Turnu Severin, Romania. 17 teams from Serbia, Hungary, Moldova and Romania gathered on the Danube border, equipped with their own portable laboratories, to find out who could track down leaks most accurately and with the greatest speed. This year the grand title went to the team from Ramnicul Valcea, Romania, which located 4 of 6 leaks with the highest precision. The annual competition helps raise awareness about the significant problem of water loss that is shared by utilities around the region, and provides a great opportunity for them to learn from one another. "After the competition, the teams always want to know, "how did they do it?" explains organizer, Silviu Lacatusu, "and this leads to some great peer learning".

knowledge about WOPs. SEE operators are encouraged to attend and may be eligible for financial assistance.

SECRETARIAT

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

EYDAP

ASA

IWA International Water Association

1st Bi-Annual Global WOPs Congress and GWOPA General Assembly

GWOPA

20-21 March 2011 in Cape Town

REGISTER NOW

WOP with Us!

Do you have news to share about a WOPs related event? Want to find out more about WOPs or get involved? Check out our website at www.gwopa.org or write us at see@gwopa.org.