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PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT INCOT
"INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- BETTER TRAININGS"

DURATION : 31/12/2017 - 30/12/2018

On 31/12/2017 "INCOT - International cooperation - better trainings" project began, and Gdańsk Water Foundation was its coordinator.

Project is realized in cooperation with partners: Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt (Germany) and Isle Utilities B.V. (Netherlands) with the duration of 12 months, which means that it will end on 30/12/2018.

INCOT project is co-financed by the European Union under the Erasmus + program- Vocational Education and Training. The main objective of INCOT project is to create a strong, permanent partnership to improve the vocational training of personnel in the water and wastewater sector in Europe, with particular emphasis on Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands. This goal is to be achieved by enabling partners to exchange and confront ideas, practices, and methods used.

The INCOT project assumes mutual education as well as raising competences related to management of water and wastewater. Present employees dealing with environmental protection and workers of water and wastewater industry have been signalling the deteriorating condition of the environment of aquatic ecosystems for years.

Pollutants such as micro plastics and pharmaceuticals deteriorate the quality of both surface and underground water. Water and wastewater sector is currently facing the problem of sludge management. Germany, Netherlands, and Poland have their imperfect methods of dealing with this issue but unfortunately, none of these solutions benefit the environment.

The implementation of INCOT project will allow us to work out a strategy of action for Germany, Netherlands, and Poland (and possibly other countries), bringing pro-ecological solutions and solving these problems.

INCOT project leader - Gdańsk Water Foundation was established in 1995, as a part of the LIFE Program and as a result of the cooperation of organizations and institutions from Poland, France, and Denmark. The founders ; Voivod of Gdansk City, Municipality of Gdańsk, Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk, Ministry of the Environment, Office International for Water (France), Limousine Region (France) and The Freshwater Centre (Denmark). Gdańsk Water Foundation acts as an institution substantively supporting staff working in relation to the general environmental protection area(water, wastewater, waste management, legal regulations, water, wastewater and sewage sludge).

In over 20 years of activity, Gdańsk Water Foundation has organized over 1200 training projects in which over 21,000 people took part. Thanks to the professional organization and high professional level of organised undertakings, GFW has a good reputation which helps gathering participants from all over the country, in particular from the Pomeranian Region. GFW mission is completed by the implementation of trainings, workshops, seminars, webinars, study visits, meetings, and inter-laboratory proficiency tests. International and National Projects that GFW participates in addresses water and wastewater management companies, wastewater treatment plants, municipal utilities, research laboratories, design and consulting offices, sanitary inspections and environmental inspections, scientific institutions, provincial government administration and local government administration, at all levels and producers of products used in environmental protection and sanitary engineering.

GFW cooperates with a number of experts - practitioners, engaged as lecturers, with research centres, ecological education centres, as well as government institutions and industry associations. Gdańsk Water Foundation has experience in cooperation with the following countries: Germany, France, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Spain, Romania, Ukraine, South Africa, China, Sweden. GFW is willing to participate in international projects and has experience in implementing projects from the following programs: Phare, Interreg IIIC, Interreg South Baltic, Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Leonardo da Vinci, Asia Pro Eco I, FWPN, NFOŚiGW, WFOŚiGW, LIFE +, Erasmus +.

One of the INCOT project partners is the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency (LFU), with which the Gdańsk Water Foundation has been cooperating for over a dozen years. LFU is the central body for environmental protection, nature, geology and water resources executives. This institution deals with the monitoring, collection, and analysis of data on the state of the environment in Bavaria. The Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency implements the TTW project (Transfer of Water Technologies), which is a platform for experience exchange on international scale. The aim of this project is to support international cooperation in the field of water management.

Third partner of the project is Isle Utilities (ISLE) - a world-renowned self-governing advisory unit in the field of technology and innovation in the water and wastewater sector. Its task is to strengthen the water and sewage sector by combining theory and practice, ensuring a proper dialog between the inventors of innovative technologies and their users, that is, public utilities, as well as supporting testing processes and improving solutions. The Technology Approval Group (TAG) created by ISLE is represented by delegates - practitioners from the water and wastewater sector. TAG looks for solutions and discusses current problems and challenges of the water and wastewater industry. Currently, TAG brings together over 150 members .

Both LFU and ISLE are not foreign institutions for GFW – based on former cooperation and therefore knowing their reliability, a partnership was established. Each partner runs vocational trainings in the same group of recipients; staff of the water and wastewater sector. In Germany, training is organized at a very high level, but it is limited to German recipients. ISLE has access to many technologies, also from outside Europe, and organizes large international trainings and conferences. GFW has extensive experience in organizing training and implementation of solutions, targeting mainly non decisive employees. All three partner organizations have previously been institutions operating independently on the international arena. The combination of partners' experiences will help to increase the quality of trainings and access to them. The innovative nature of the project means that the water and wastewater industry (previously focused locally on its tasks and problems) will receive a signal and the first tips on how to operate on a wider scope.

Projects International cooperation - better training is co-financed by the European Union under the Erasmus + program. Vocational education and training. The amount of funding for the INCOT project is 24650 €.

We invite you to follow the information about the progress of the project and its results on Facebook and other social media (Twitter, LinkedIn) of Gdańsk Water Foundation and on the EPALE platform.

More information about the Erasmus + program. Vocational education and training under which the project is organized can be found in the brochure