

BESSE newsletter 1

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Newsletter 1

Brokering Environmentally Sustainable Sanitation for Europe

DECEMBER 2009

BESSE embarks on sanitation knowledge brokering project

The European Commission is funding the Collaborative project 'Brokering Environmentally Sustainable Sanitation for Europe' (BESSE) within the context of the Seventh Framework Programme 'Environment'. The project is a collaborative effort of numerous academic, professional and non-governmental organisations. It aims to contribute to the Renewed Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union through the enhancement of the links between sanitation policy and research on sustainable sanitation development.

The project implementation started in June 2009 and is expected to end in May 2012.

One of the exciting aspects of the project is the survey of innovative technologies relating to the treatment of wastewater. The survey results of these innovative technologies will be published on the BESSE website.

Why is BESSE important?

Notwithstanding the availability of new knowledge, most sanitation approaches in Europe are still based on technologies and management systems developed in the 19th and 20th Centuries. These approaches and systems do not adequately respond to the sustainability or sustainable development needs and demands of the 21st Century, being those concerning energy costs; the reduction of environmental impact of sanitation, etc.

There is a gap between the processes linked to the production and transfer of knowledge and what knowledge is actually being transformed into applicable implementation models. The same applies to the knowledge produced in scientific research areas and the knowledge that is being employed.

The BESSE project will, over the next three years, research the problem, identify the gaps and map the knowledge and technology options available in order to attain environmentally sustainable sanitation (ESS). The mapping will include the identification of the actors that possess the knowledge and the obstacles in the information / knowledge dissemination chain.

Project Partners

 Maastricht University

 LABORATORIO DI SCIENZE DELLA CITTADINANZA

 WEDC

 WATERSCHAPSBEDRIJF LIMBURG

 RECOLO



 International Water Association





Funding



Kick-off meeting:

Steering Committee members gathered at Maastricht University to craft the working relationship between all the organisations that make up the BESSE team. Ragna Zeiss (right, middle) is based at Maastricht University and leads the project as operational coordinator.

What will BESSE achieve?

Establish which obstacles are preventing the dissemination of scientific and technical sanitation information;

Identify knowledge brokering methods that will enable the sanitation sectors to overcome these obstacles;

Start a learning process on knowledge brokerage in general, as a tool for the socialisation of Scientific and Technological Research.



THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

SOFIA MEETING

The first Steering Committee member meeting took place in Sofia, Bulgaria in September 2009. The meeting finalised the design frameworks for the project and mapped the way forward for the seven Working Groups to implement the project.

BESSE project partners will work according to specific Work Packages—WEDC will be responsible for researching the existing ESS knowledge; LSC will define and map the obstacles to knowledge dissemination and design the experimental pilot projects; REGLIO will implement the experimental pilot project in Bulgaria, CNR in Italy and UMSTs in the Netherlands. Maastricht University will also be responsible for



BESSE Steering Committee Meetings representing all the partner organisations.

the learning process and project management. The International Water Association is responsible for the dissemination and communication of activities.

At the Sofia meeting, the project partners agreed to prepare a roadmap in compliance with the water framework directive of the European Union, which will guide the project to conclusion.

Implementation Sites



Wastewater treatment plant: discharge of purified wastewater from clarifier



Wastewater treatment plant: aeration tank



Wastewater treatment plant Maastricht Bosscherveld, aerial view.



Wastewater treatment plant—Pernik, Bulgaria



Wastewater treatment plant—Pernik, Bulgaria

IN THE NEWS

PERNIK INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL PILOT PROJECT

The mayor of Pernik, Rosica Yanakieva launched the three-year BESSE project at a meeting in Bulgaria yesterday.

The BESSE project will promote sustainable environmental sanitation services in Europe in line with the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union.

The overall objective is to promote the link between policy and research for sustainable sanitation development with the aim of influencing European sanitation policy and implementation strategy.

"Pernik municipality with its current water and sewerage system is a very conducive area for this project to be implemented and for international specialists to give their input.

I hope that the performance of this team of outstanding professionals and leading academics will create a very good model to advance a system of modern management of the entire water cycle and will help solve our problems related to water and sewerage systems in Pernik as well as in the rest of the EU countries. This will be a prerequisite for sustainable development in the future and for an environmentally sound water sector in Europe.

I wish the project and its team success in the completion of their task and their project", said Rosica Yanakieva.



Wastewater treatment plant—Pernik, Bulgaria

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