

PROJECT INFORMATION

November 2009

Round table about sustainable and decentralised wastewater treatment in rural areas of Bulgaria and Romania



(Constructed Wetland in Poland, Claudia Wendland)

Background

In Bulgaria, almost all inhabitants are served by centralised drinking water supply but 98% of the villages don't have any adequate wastewater collection or treatment. In Romania, many people in rural areas rely on private wells for drinking water and pit latrines. The unsafe sanitation and wastewater system sets public health at risk and pollutes groundwater and surface waters.

In many regions of the EU, the construction of adequate sewage collection and treatment is unaffordable, particularly in small rural communities. There is a lack of financial, technical and staff resources. WECF and partner organisations carried out some sustainable demonstration projects in Bulgaria and Romania which faced a lot of barriers but were well accepted by the citizens.

Project

In March 2010, Women in Europe for a Common Future, WECF e.V. in cooperation with the local partner Earth Forever in Bulgaria is going to carry out a Round Table for discussion and exchange about decentralised sanitation options in Bulgaria and Romania with the participation of ca. 50 national and international political decision makers and experts in Sofia.

Expected results:

- ✓ Organisation of the Round Table for discussion and exchange, participation of 50 national and international political decision makers and experts in Sofia
- ✓ Information and raising awareness on the sustainable decentralised sanitation and wastewater treatment systems and reuse
- ✓ Start of a policy dialogue with the goal to regulate and promote affordable, sustainable, decentralised solutions for wastewater treatment in agglomerations with less than 2000 population equivalents

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 221
- Region: Bulgaria and Romania
- Duration: 01.11.2009 – 30.04.2010
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partners in Germany: WECF, www.wecf.eu
- Local partner in Bulgaria: Earth Forever, www.earthforever.org