



Development and Management of Water Infrastructure in the CEE Region with EU financing

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Currently there are **billions of euros allocated to the countries of the CEE region** to achieve their targets on the field of water infrastructure developments set up by EU regulations such as the Water Framework Directive.

In today's controversial situation the need for development and extension of water supply and wastewater treatment systems and the need for reconstruction of the already existing networks arise together with the requirements of the WFD, like sustainability, full cost recovery and affordability. The real **challenge of decision makers** of the water sector is to meet these requirements simultaneously. Adequate results can only be achieved if the proposed measures are reviewed and compared critically on the basis of **transparent, professionally-comprehensible and reliable planning approaches**. Also the international relations and professional dialogue between water experts and decision makers of the CEE countries shall be enforced towards **sharing experiences and best practices**.

In order to discuss the „halftime” results and experiences in the field, the Hungarian Water Association (MaSzeSz) together with the European Water Association has organized an international conference on the „*Development and Maintenance of Water Infrastructure in the CEE region with EU financial support in the Program Period 2007-2013*”, which was held on the 6th of April, 2011 in Budapest. The conference had broad attention, more than 140 participants from 9 countries, and a very positive feedback from both participants and media.

The findings and recommendations of the conference has been issued stating many problems and also providing several answers. According to **these a new methodological approach of option analysis is needed**, in order to improve the planning process and to ensure the cost-efficiency and sustainability of water infrastructure developments in the CEE region.

The Hungarian Wastewater Association initiated the formation of an **international working group**, which includes several professional associations from the CEE region. Building on the german experiences of more than 30 years the working group has elaborated a regional guidance to support cost-efficiency analysis of water supply and wastewater projects. Instead of the currently dominating short term financial approach, the **Guidelines for Dynamic Cost Comparison Calculation (DCCC Guidelines) enforce the aspects of sustainability and cost-efficiency**.

The DCC Guidelines is **in line with the cost-benefit analysis (CBA)** used in EU tendering processes. Its **dynamic approach and full lifecycle approach** ensures that the correct use of Dynamic Cost Comparison **leads to the least-cost solution**, and provides solid methodological base for the planning process in case of both water infrastructure developments and reconstructions.