

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition

4-6 November 2020, Tirana, Albania



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WWTPs in Kosovo and river protection

Besime KAJTAZI
EU office in Kosovo

Tirana, 06 November

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- Kosovo has limited water resources, “water stressed” basins;
- Is behind with construction of new water reservoirs
- With increase of demand, economical and agro development, the pressure on existing resources will increase more
- Existing rivers are recipients of all generated wastewater
- Performance report of WRO 2018 states that level of sewerage services coverage is 77%, while the level of wastewater treatment is 0,7%

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KOSOVO'S WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Kosovo enjoys EU enlargement perspective

- 2020 Kosovo Report 2020 says:
 - Water resource **monitoring networks** are still incomplete. **Water protection zones** are not being monitored or properly managed
 - Urgent efforts are required to ensure that the river basin district authority becomes operational. **No progress** was achieved in preparing **management plans for all river basins**
 - A lack of treatment facilities means that **untreated sewage and discharge remain the main sources of water pollution**
 - **Water reservoir** dams management needs to be improved to meet water demand, especially in the light of **water stress resulting from climate change**.

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EU Green Agenda:

- Five pillars including fighting **pollution of air, water and soil**
 - The Western Balkans is one of the **regions in Europe most heavily affected by the impact of climate change** and this trend is projected to continue, with estimates of temperature increases of 1.7 – 4.0°C, and even exceeding 5.0°C by the end of the century(RCC report, 2018).
 - In line with the European Climate Law, **climate neutrality will be reflected** in the EU's bilateral relations and **accession negotiations with the Western Balkans**, who should already now start transforming their societies accordingly
 - The EU's experience, know-how and resources can support Western Balkans in their efforts to enhance resilience and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, while also achieving synergies with the clean air objectives (one atmosphere approach).
 - The Western Balkans are home to some of the last pristine rivers of the continent, but their protection remains a challenge. The region represents **17% of the population of the Danube River basin** and 8.5% of its area. There is a high share of population in rural areas (30 to 50%) with only **basic sanitary facilities** and wastewater collection, while urban areas with collection of wastewater via sewer networks discharge mostly **untreated wastewater**. The risk of **release of nitrates and pesticides** into groundwater needs to be controlled.

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- EU is helping Kosovo meeting the cost of installing wastewater treatment plants and ensuring their efficient operation
- To introduce the practices of wastewater treatment and protection of water resources, the EU build the first wastewater treatment plant back in 2006/2012.
- This wastewater treatment plant was intended to provide the opportunity to assess operational costs and skill requirements, and to set up training facilities for the future, as well as improving the environmental conditions in the area.

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Wastewater treatment plant in Skenderaj: capacity 8,000 p.e.; 1,628 m³/d;

Biological treatment in trickling filter; 3,0 mill EUR



Parameter	Unit	Value	Analyses Frequency
BOD ₅	mg/L	25	Daily
COD	mg/L	125	Daily
TSS	mg/L	35	Daily

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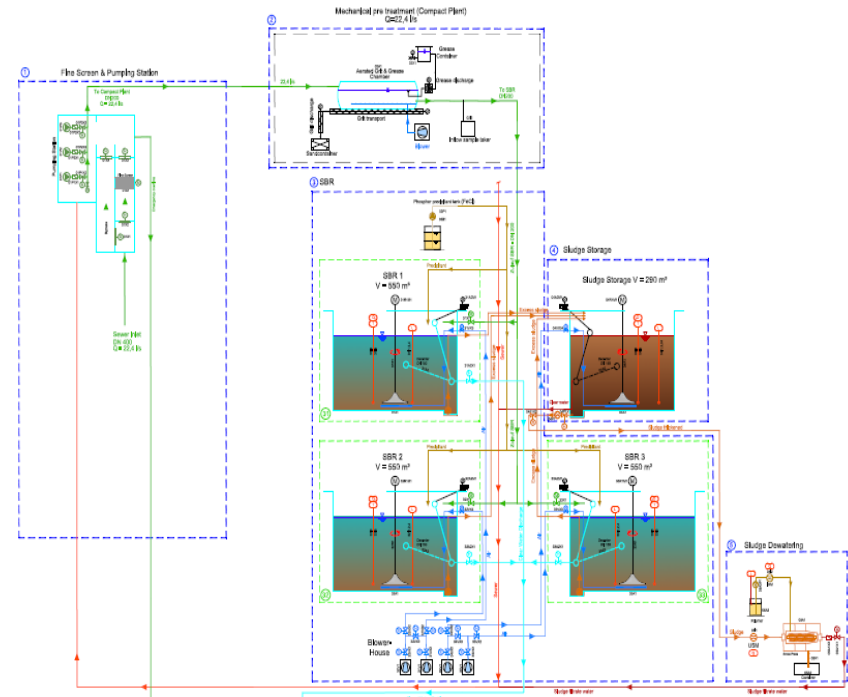


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- The EU, through IPA, has financed the construction of four other wastewater treatment plants for small settlements, with capacity of 1,500 – 3,500 p.e., using Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) by providing a full biological treatment of crude sewage produced in a normal domestic environment in:
 - Skivjan in Gjakovë, Kuk&Kosavë in Dragash, Junik and Medvec & Vrellë in Lipjan
 - Effluent requirements according EU Directive 91/271/EEC: BOD_5 at $20^\circ C < 25mg/l$ & $SS < 35mg/l$
 - Investment amounts to EUR 7,0 million



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- Feasibility studies for construction of wastewater treatment plants in the following cities:
 - Prishtinë, Gjilan, Ferizaj dhe Mitrovicë; studies costed EUR 1,75million
- EU will support the construction of wastewater treatment plants in:
 - WWTP in Prishtina will be supported with EUR 20,0 mill
 - WWTP in Gjilan will be supported with EUR 2,5 mill
 - WWTP in Mitrovica will be supported with EUR 5,0mill
- EU will finance enviromental improvements in KEK power plants icluding construction of WWTP

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Challenges:

- Is not just a question of building plants and upgrading networks
- The right regulatory and management systems are also needed to ensure services of an acceptable standard and at fair prices
- Willingness and readiness of national authorities and stakeholders to cooperate and help on solving different obstacles
- Building human capacities for O&M of WWTP
- Raising citizens awareness on environmental protection and sustainable development

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Thank you

<https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kosovo>