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*Implementation and enforcement of the environmental acquis
focussed on soil/subsoil protection and ecological reconstruction*

Agentia Regională pentru
Protecția Mediului
Timișoara

TWINNING PROJECT PHARE 2006/IB/EN-03

Synthesis activities of Timisoara Twinning Project, Future Perspectives:

----- 18 months Project, from 15th of May 2008 to 15th of November 2009

The overall objective of this project was to reinforce administrative capacities and to reinforce regional and local capacities in the implementation of the environmental acquis. France, Poland and Romania were partners during the First Phase of the project, Phare 2004: « *Implementation and enforcement of the legislation regarding the environment focused on the protection of nature in the West Region of Romania* » for 23 months. For this Second Phase of 18 months, the Focal point concerned « *soil and subsoil protection and ecological reconstruction* ».

In this Second Phase of the Twinning Project, the French Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, BRGM France (Office for Geological and Mining Research) and IHOBE Spain, junior partner from Basque Country put together their competences for the implementation of this project. The Twinning was led by a Resident Twinning Adviser, Mrs. Daniele Fauconnier from BRGM France, who was based at REPA Timisoara. Together with her Romanian Counterpart, Mrs. Georgeta Titan, the Assistant, Mrs. Ana Maria Teodoru and Mrs. Carmen Ispasoiu, the Interpreter, she organised short term experts' missions on different topics related to environmental protection.

Focal Point : « Soil/subsoil protection and ecological reconstruction » : the methodology used was adapted in order to :

- Define a strategy in the management of polluted sites/soils taking into account the Romanian background ;
- Define methods for scientific monitoring and environmental assessment ;
- Establish methodological tools for the agents in charge with industrial sites monitoring ;
- Elaborate management plans for polluted sites ;
- Select remediation practical examples for different contaminated sites.

For this, training programs and seminars were organised on topics developed during the twinning :

- « *Substances carried by the air* » focusing on the most currently used tools for air emissions characterisation ;

- « *Soil pollution by mining and quarry activities* », the objective was to give to REPA and LEPA's staff the necessary information in order to identify and to manage contaminated soils by mining and quarry activities ;
- « *Remediation technologies* », criteria for the selection of remediation technologies for organic and inorganic pollutants were presented, as well as different remediation technologies used in France with their advantages/disadvantages and their application limits and costs ;
- « *Agriculture* » thematic was approached under the form of seminars regarding pesticides, nitrates and farming activities problems. Aspects related to groundwater contamination due to agricultural activities were also discussed.

In addition, several guidelines were elaborated: Soil pollution by mining and quarry activities, Landfill Remediation, Abandoned Industrial Sites, Remediation technologies, Agricultural pollution (pesticides, nitrates ...).

Daily activities: During the 18 months, other topics were also debated which conducted to the following results via working groups, training sessions, discussions, seminars:

- the objectives of the missions on « *Environmental planning and policy* » were to validate the proposal of the Advisory Committee creation in order to implement environmental European funds. Another action was to prepare the implementation of the environmental education strategy in collaboration with the French Cultural Centre from Timisoara and Alsace Region from France. The convention for the Resource Centre (partners, participants, training sessions, financing) dedicated to the environmental education was written and two training sessions on environmental education strategy took place. For « *Horizontal Legislation* » activity, training on impact studies, environmental strategic assessment allowed experience sharing between Romanian, Polish and French experts in order to improve administrative practices in this field.

- for « *Institutional Capacities* », training sessions and reunions had already been organised during the First Phase of the Twinning, in order to improve agents' work in the environmental protection. This Second Phase allowed to see if the diagnosis elements and recommendations previously made were understood and implemented by practical case application such as procedure application, file elaboration and data collection. Training sessions on specific topics were carried out.

- for « *Air quality* » activity, LEPA's are now organised to monitor and to study air quality in their counties. They are also ready to communicate information about air quality towards local and national authorities and population too. A guideline was elaborated on this topic.

Short term action plans and collaboration protocols were elaborated in all counties; management programs are on the way of being implemented (in order to monitor possible limit value exceedings) and applied by the Ministry of Environment and NEPA (www.calitate aer.ro) for Internet diffusion.

- for « *Waste management* » activity, a training program for municipalities was set up, in collaboration with the Polytechnic University and REPA Timisoara. The program is made of 8 modules.

- Eventually, for « *Communication* » activity, which was new introduced in this Second Phase, several topics were treated and discussions with people involved in the

environmental issues and communication took place. The agenda of the seminars was based on: Communication of proximity, Aarhus convention, Institutional practices in communication and public debate, working tools for mass media – Expression in front of the camera, Attitudes and behavior during a reunion, Promoting an environmental institution. Two guidelines were written on this topic together with REPA and LEPA Timis.

In the First Phase, Romanian agents participated to two study visits in France, the first on institutional capacities and the second on Natura 2000; during the Second Phase, the beneficiary country participated to other two study visits, in France and in Spain (Basque Country), on soil/subsoil protection.

This Second Twinning Project Phase 2006 focused on soil/subsoil protection had duration of 18 months only, and it represented a real challenge for the Project Team and also for the short term experts and beneficiaries.

The strategy for the polluted site management needs to be adapted according to the type of activity developed on industrial sites such as chemical plants or steel plants, numerous in Romania; the methodology varies according to the type of activity (which products and pollutants are generated) and to the local environment (geology, hydrogeology).

One **study case** was treated in the West Region (Calan, a former siderurgical plant) which permitted to reinforce the notions presented during seminars, regarding management methodology, diagnosis and aspects related to remediation of polluted sites/soils. Different phases of the historical study and also prescreening diagnosis for investigation dimensioning were also illustrated. Recommendations on the overall of technical actions (studies, diagnosis, and remediation) were given, especially about:

- Waste elimination,
- Demolition,
- Where to make diagnosis in the future,
- Which environments to investigate,
- Which parametres to monitor,
- Possible remediation ways.

On the basis of observations made during the site visit and of the first available measurements, recommendations on the overall of technical actions (studies, diagnosis and remediation) were given for both ex site and on site approach.

Taking into account the identified issues, **collaborations and perspectives** could be related to:

- Apply the methodology for polluted sites/soils management on numerous practical cases of industrial sites. These projects would be considered as pilot projects which could permit to expand the expertise from the regional level to the national one,
- Make complete diagnosis on sites taking into account the necessary multidisciplinary approach for this type of study: activities history, geology, hydrogeology etc.

- Necessary strategy and studies for IPPC sites closure and their reconversion for different uses.
- Train agents from other regions in order to have a homogeneous policy of polluted sites/soils all over Romania.
- Assemble a pilot laboratory in REPA Timisoara/LEPA Timis for soil and air quality measurements due to the variety of pollutants quantified in the framework of risk assessments and environmental monitoring.