

EXPERIENCES AND FINDINGS

According to the experiences and findings of the „DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CEE REGION WITH EU FINANCING” international conference (06 April 2011), and the national professional forums and round table discussions, public debates, recommendations, international conferences, as well as the National Reports (by Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies) on the progress of Operational Programs and Reports by the State Audit Office of Hungary and finally International projects aiming the development of skills and systems, the following statements can be made about the experiences of the CEE countries:

- Anomalies concerning the formulation of agglomerations- unreasonable impoundment
- The resistance against regional solutions on a local level – local interests
- Inefficient system elements included in projects
- In case of reconstruction or expansion of systems, instead of utilization of the already existing facilities, unjustified greenfield investments are planned
- Target states, objectives exceeding EU requirements
- Construction of utilities prior to real needs arise, in hope of further development of settlements
- Oversized water and wastewater capacities
- Vague planning and tendering strategy
- Conservation of the current situation by the selection of drinking water bases
- Economic analysis not reflecting the realistic, actual value of existing utilities
- Lack of real option analysis
- Lack of communication between engineers and economists
- Controversial and poor Prefeasibility Studies and Detailed Feasibility Studies
- Weak Economical and Financial Models (CBA)
- Poor quality, old available plans, out-dated technologies
- Unqualified Project Management and prolonged Quality Control
- Lack of proper sludge treatment
- The decrease of the population and the water usage
- Lack of „procurement culture”
- Lack of Whole Life Cycle planning knowledge and approach
- Lack of standardized guidance and directives and the lack of administrative legislation
- The lack of obligatory connection to water networks
- The investment and operational cost estimations are haphazard
- Unsustainable and unaffordable facilities and services
- Uncertainty in pricing – over/under pricing
- The calculation of the tariffs is not regulated and haphazard
- Uncertain residential support, decreasing willingness to pay

- To sum it up : The mid-term sustainability of the existing and long-term sustainability of the new assets is not provided

As a conclusion to the present deficiencies to different extents in the various areas of the water industry, the MASZESZ (Hungarian Wastewater Association) drew up recommendations, which are presented on its website and were sent to the organizations involved.



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06 April 2011, Budapest