

Action plan – MUNICIPALITY OF TREBNJE

Part I – General information

Project: AQUARES - Water reuse policies advancement for resource efficient European regions

Partner organisation: ___Municipality of Trebnje .

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): -_____.

Country: _Slovenia_____.

NUTS2

region: East Slovenia_____.

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Part II – Policy context

- The Action Plan aims to impact:
- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy

Name of the policy instrument

addressed: LEADER/CLLD programme

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1

1. **The background** (please describe the lessons learnt from the project that constitute the basis for the development of the present Action Plan)

In the application form it was promised that Municipality of Trebnje will address the investment priority "Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis" in the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014-2020. During project implementation some key objectives regarding treatment infrastructure in Municipality of Trebnje were already addressed: 1) in 2020, Municipality of Trebnje did the treatment improvement at the central wastewater treatment plant with additional "drum sieve" and enlarging the capacity from 8,000 PE to 12,000 PE; 2) in 2021, Municipality of Trebnje applied for developing treatment infrastructure in agglomerations above 2,000 PE from the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014-2020 fund; 3) several wells in rural area were developed in order to developing system of reliable access to healthy drinking water and address major losses of water from the main water supply system.

During 1st phase of the AQUARES project also other needs were identified. The main barriers for more sustainable water management are socio-institutional rather than technical across Europe and they also apply to water sources in Municipality of Trebnje: limited knowledge base, inadequate governance structure, balancing the multiple goals, effective citizen involvement, insufficient social inclusion and acceptance, lack of political and financial support, challenges for monitoring. We are not able to implement new water reuse facilities for water reuse if the social perception towards water reuse is negative. Municipality of Trebnje decided for the campaign to promote water reuse. Significant potential remains to educate younger generations.

Our Action plan is based on two good practices we had learned about in AQUARES project site visits and workflow: 1) school awareness about the importance of sanitation and reuse of urban wastewater in Murcia Region; 2) RHYME, z. s., H2Ospodař - awareness, interactive exhibition in Czech Republic. Both are good examples of educational and raising awareness activities which is most needed in the case of Trebnje. Raising public awareness for more sustainable water management and potential water reuse in Municipality of Trebnje was also emphasized in the AQUARES Steering Meetings and Public Consultation meetings.

Since the implementation period for Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014-2020 is almost finished and whereas the proposed action in the case of Municipality of Trebnje it was identified that more suitable policy instrument to address with Action plan is LEADER/CLLD programme.

LEADER recognises the benefits of the smaller project; it recognises that the combined impact of many small projects within a specific area can have a major impact. LEADER/CLLD programme is implemented through 'local action groups' (LAGs), each covering a territory of fewer than 100,000 inhabitants. Local Action Group (LAG) STIK covers the municipalities of Trebnje, Dolenjske Toplice, Ivančna Gorica and Žužemberk. In 2021, LAG STIK is preparing the new Strategy of the Local Development in period 2021-2027. In the strategy, the four priority topics are identified. Our action is addressing the priority topic Environmental protection and nature conservation. In the new strategy, actions for sustainable water management will be highlighted.

2. Action (please list and describe the actions to be implemented)

Action 1: School campaign about the importance of water sources protection, sustainable water management and potential for water reuse in Municipality of Trebnje

Municipality of Trebnje will prepare educational program for youth, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of knowing and respecting environmental resources with highlighted importance of citizen involvement and personal responsibility for environmental protection and more sustainable water management in Municipality of Trebnje.

We will organize 4 workshops and 4 site visits in collaboration with Primary school Trebnje and Public utility company Komunala Trebnje who is in charge of the operation of the sewage system and waste water treatment plants. The school campaign is based on multiple effects on younger generations who will further disseminate new knowledge in local community. In the campaign, we will address primary school children in Trebnje (age 9 to 12). The aim of the action is raising public awareness and strengthening local communities' willingness to engage in water reuse implementation. The qualified staff with pedagogical background will organize 4 interactive workshops and 4 site visits of the wastewater treatment plant. In the events, min 160 pupils will be directly involved. Indirectly, their parents will be also included. The pedagogical material will be shared with participants of the workshops and site visits.

3. Players involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

Municipality of Trebnje is a basic unit of local self-government in Slovenia. As SQUARES project partner and Action plan initiator Municipality of Trebnje will assure resources (physical, human and financial) to organize school awareness campaign. Trebnje will organize four interactive workshops and four site visits of the wastewater

treatment plant in cooperation with primary school Trebnje and public utility company Komunala Trebnje. After the events, Municipality of Trebnje will prepare and publish news on webpage, social media and newsletter.

Primary school Trebnje with 4 units and more than 1.000 pupils (between 6 and 14 age) is the main educational centre in Trebnje and one of the biggest primary school in Slovenia. It is divided into three three-year periods. Primary school Trebnje will directly participate in the school campaign with teachers, pupils and their parents.

Public utility company Komunala Trebnje is a public company, founded by 4 municipalities (Trebnje, Mirna, Šentrupert and Mokronog-Trebelno) in order to ensure the basic services for the citizens such as public water supply, the operation of the sewage system and waste water treatment plants, waste management, etc. Komunala Trebnje operates the wastewater treatment plants in Municipality of Trebnje. They will make a tour for the children on the central waste water treatment plant to highlight importance of water sources protection, sustainable water management and potential for water reuse in Municipality of Trebnje.

4. Timeframe

November 2021 – May 2023

In the 1st phase (November 2021–February 2022), Municipality of Trebnje will develop the educational programme in cooperation with school and public utility company. In the second step, workshops are going to be organized (March-October 2022) followed by the site visit (September 2022-May 2023).

5. Costs (if relevant):

2.200 staff costs, 300 EUR material for workshops.

6. Funding sources (if relevant):

LEADER/CLLD programme, Ordinance on the Budget of the Municipality of Trebnje for years 2022 and 2023.



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