European Network for Rural Development

Investments in domestic wastewater treatment solutions

EAFRD-funded projects

HUNGARY

Local development

Location
Csikvánd

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure
M7 – Basic services & village renewal

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 650 000
EAFRD 425 590
National/Regional 75 105
Private 149 305

Project duration
2017 – 2018

Project promoter
Municipality of Csikvánd

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An infrastructure investment to solve the problem of waste water treatment in a sparsely populated rural municipality.

Summary

In 2015, the sparsely populated municipality of Csikvánd submitted a successful application for support under the Hungarian Rural Development Programme (RDP). This helped to solve issues with wastewater treatment which had been present for 19 years.

This project addressed problems with the collection, cleaning and disposing of communal waste water by installing individual domestic sewage treatment plants for each household. The resulting purified sewage water is discharged locally.

Results

The installation of 128 individual wastewater treatment plants on 130 properties in Csikvánd.

Improved living conditions and environmental benefits.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Communicating to residents about the potential benefits and encouraging the population to invest in individual waste water treatment was important.
- ❑ The application required a lot of preparation (a municipal wastewater management programme, feasibility study) and separate plans and budgets for each property. This was achieved through joint public procurement. Simplification of administrative costs and process would further benefit small municipalities.

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Context

Csikvánd is a settlement of 500 habitants at the border of the counties Győr-Moson-Sopron and Veszprém in western Hungary. The settlement has suffered from a lack of wastewater treatment for almost 20 years.

Sewage extractors built in the 1960s and 1970s didn't meet the current waste management and environmental standards. The outdated wastewater removal infrastructure was creating problems and there was no sewage processing plant near the settlement to which the village could be connected. The construction of a separate sewage network was not possible as the volume of wastewater produced in the settlement was not large enough to justify the investment. Sewage piping was not favoured due to environmental concerns.

The local population has been accumulating capital towards a future investment since 2006.

Objectives

This infrastructure related investment aimed to support:

- The collection, cleaning and disposing of the waste water produced in each household by installing individual domestic sewage treatment plants.
- Improving the quality of the environment in the settlement.
- Ensuring that the resulting purified sewage water is discharged locally.

Activities

An application for the development of a local sewer network was prepared for the Regional Development Council, but the investment cost per property was considered very high and therefore didn't gain support. This was because the settlement was sparsely populated and therefore it would not be possible to install sewage pipes in every street of the village.

In 2010, the local government sought other options and opportunities. Local people began to make more contributions to a savings initiative to address the problem.

Two interesting projects concerning possible solutions were identified in the territory of Balaton Development Council. In these cases, two small settlements in Nyim and Gétye set up individual waste water purification equipment. Based on these examples, the local government started a communication campaign to encourage the population to use individual wastewater treatment equipment. As a result, several households purchased sludge equipment and this served as a good example for the rest of the inhabitants. In addition, individual wastewater treatment was proposed by the municipality for all newly built houses.

The local government was looking for other financial resources to promote individual wastewater treatment, but at that time there was no new call for proposals. There were calls for the local government to address the situation without external financial support or subsidies, using only the savings of the population and the resources of the local government. However this could not come to fruition because of rising prices.

Finally in 2015, a suitable call for projects came out through the Hungarian Rural Development Programme in the framework of the call for projects on 'Renovation of Rural Areas - Individual Waste Water Treatment'.

Thanks to RDP support 128 individual wastewater treatment plants were built on properties in Csikvánd. Three types of individual plants were installed. These were of different capacities depending on the number of users. The individual plants treat and drain sewage from the households and the communal buildings. The waste is discharged, or collected for further use (e.g. irrigation). Small amounts of sewage sludge remain after the cleaning process. This can be removed, or used for composting (for soil nutrition) if its composition is appropriate. The mechanically and biologically purified sewage is absorbed by the soil.

Main Results

- The installation of 128 individual wastewater treatment plants on properties in Csikvánd.
- Improved living conditions and environmental benefits.

"The call was very useful for us. Only a forward-thinking municipal government could apply for that by implementing a cost-effective solution to the problems of wastewater management in a small settlement."

Mayor Tibor Kozma

Key lessons

It was very important to communicate with local residents in order to prepare them for the project implementation and subsequent tasks. Efficient communication helped explain the project's potential and encourage the population to invest in individual waste water treatment.

The call for projects was open for small settlements which had secured their own financial contribution. In the case of Csikvánd, this was already available through existing local contributions.

The application required preliminary studies (municipal wastewater management programme, feasibility study) and separate plans and budgets for each property. This was achieved through joint public procurement. Simplifying the administrative costs and process would be of further benefit to small municipalities.

Additional sources of information

n/a

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