**Fact sheet**

**Title of the process**

Poland:  
Mediation to release the entrance of the Łubna landfill

**Type of procedure**

- [x] Mediation procedure  
- [ ] Procedure including mediation elements  
- [ ] Other procedure

**Topic area**

- [ ] Urban and land use planning  
- [ ] Water management/supply and distribution  
- [x] Waste management  
- [ ] Industry, trade, enterprises  
- [ ] Power industry  
- [ ] Telecommunications  
- [ ] Traffic, transportation  
- [ ] General environmental policies (genetic engineering, nuclear policy etc.)  
- [ ] Nature conservation  
- [ ] Neighbourhood conflict  
- [ ] Tourism  
- [ ] Other:

**Initiator(s)**

Góra Kalwaria commune.

**Short description of the case**

Łubna is a landfill near Warsaw, named after the village in the commune of Góra Kalwaria where it is located. Since 1978 when it was built until 1998 when the first conflict occurred the landfill had been gathering waste from the whole capital city of Warsaw. When the landfill filled up, the municipality of Warsaw together with Góra Kalwaria commune decided to build a new landfill, Łubna II, near the existing one, re-cultivating an old landfill. Local people, having previous negative experiences with living close to the old landfill, started to protest against a new one.

The conflict escalated when the developer (consortium called Łubna II) initiated procedures for issuing the necessary permits in order to start the building process. The developer moved

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1 Permits were needed on the bases of Geodesy Foundation and Hydro-Geological and Geological Documentation. Also, Plant Project Conception and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report which are the necessary documents for the Plant Location Consent, had to be conducted. The EIA was conducted by PROEKO Sp. z o.o., on behalf of “Łubna II” consortium, and it was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection of Mazovia Provincial Office. The EIA was made for all projects.
forward without initiating an adequate public participation procedure. (At that time Polish legislation had no requirements for public participation.)

Alternative sites for the new landfill were not considered either because no other commune agreed to build the landfill on its territory. On the other hand, Warsaw municipality didn’t carefully investigate other possible places for plant locations, failing to consider that there might be any problems with placing a new plant in Lubna village.

The conflict worsened in 1998 when the Mayor of Góra Kalwaria issued the Plant Location Consent for Lubna. In response, the local people blocked the entrance and road to the landfill. As a result, Warsaw started to sink in garbage. In efforts to get garbage moving again and establish the conditions of the new landfill Góra Kalwaria commune sought to negotiate with protesters.

Similar mediation processes took place also a year later, at 1999 in response to protests who blocked the road again as the Municipality of Warsaw and other public authorities did not keep their promises agreed during the 1st mediation process.

These processes resulted in the dismantling of the road blocks, although the overall problem of locating a new municipal waste utilisation plant remained.

**Parties and other participants (number of individuals, names of participating public authorities, institutions, interest groups etc.)**

- The Social Committee of Environmental Protection (SKOŚ) - represents protesters, initiators and coordinators of the blockades.
- Investor named Lubna II.
- Commune of Góra Kalwaria – represented by the Mayor, Mr. Ryszard Baj, as a decision-maker granting the Decision of Location of Investment to the investor Lubna II. The commune has a double status in the conflict: it is also an administrative authority which is competent of issuing the location consent for the landfill on the basis of the Act on Spatial Management.
- The Club of Villages‘ Administrators – consists of administrators of villages bordering the Lubna landfill. They represent the interests of the local inhabitants. However, they showed willingness to cooperate with the investor, when, as it turned out, that the villages administrated by them could profit from the operation of the new landfill.

**Client / financial sponsor**

The mediation process was not financed by any party – the mediator was working voluntarily in order to be neutral. The commune of Góra Kalwaria wanted to pay the mediator, but he preferred to stay financially impartial. No independent source of financing was available.

**Procedural guidance by (e.g. professional mediators etc.)**

Dr. Andrzej Kraszewski (Ph.D. Eng.) from the Institute of Environmental Engineering Systems, Warsaw Technical University was a mediator, and was assisted during the 2nd mediation by Dr. Pawel Moczydlowski (Ph.D., social psychology) from the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, Warsaw University.
Geographic dimension

- [x] local
- [ ] regional
- [ ] state-wide
- [ ] international
- [ ] EU-wide

Status of process

- [x] concluded
- [ ] in execution

The process of mediation is concluded (in terms of convincing the protesters to unblock the entrance to the landfill), but the background problem of the location of the landfill still exists.

Start, end, duration of the process (if still in execution: estimated end)

Two mediation procedures were organised to solve the same problem: the first one started at 08.02.1998 and finished at 10.02.1998, and the second one started at 23.11.1999 and finished at 30.01.2000.