

Together for Clean Environment in Shtip

*Implemented by NGO Permaculture and Peace
building Center PPC*

Implementation period: Dec 2005-Sept 2006



Project background

The town of Shtip has serious waste management issues. Through field research, PPC located several illegal dumping sites most of which occupy the center of town. PPC plans to solve this problem using public participation mechanisms to identify and incorporate stakeholders and the public in drafting an Action Plan for waste management. The project is providing solutions to the current waste problem while encouraging the further application of the Aarhus Convention.

Activities implemented

- Meetings with the presentation of the Aarhus Convention and the project activity plans were organized. Participants were representatives from PC Shtip, Hygienic and Urban Commission, Ecologic Commission from the Local Self Government, presidents of the 14 urban communities, consultants, advisors and the project team.



- 14 separate meetings in each of the urban communities was organized.
- Questionnaire was prepared and used to find out the exact problems and possible solutions regarding the waste management. 700 citizens (50 from each of the urban communities) have been asked.
- Public debate was organized in order to get a clear picture about the situation in managing

the waste. The debate gave a broader picture about the present situation of the waste management, summarizing all information, notes and comments by the interviewed citizens.

- A Coordinative Body has been established which has the task to **draft the Waste Management Action Plan**. The Coordinative Body gathers once a week to work on the Action Plan. In addition to that the SWOT Analysis of the waste management were done.
- During 14 separate meetings in each Urban Community where the Action Plan applies, the draft plan has been discussed, the citizens suggestions, comments, notes are collected. Additionally, the draft action plan was delivered to the political parties, different officials of the Urban Communities, made available through the Citizen's Information Center, and promoted in the local media.
- After the draft was completed the Action Plan was put to the public hearing where the citizens got the chance to express their opinions related to the Action Plan and

advocate for the possible changes. The comments that were given by citizens were delivered to members of the Steering Committee.

- Final meeting of the Steering Committee were reviewing the citizens' comments and concluded them into the final draft version of the Action Plan. The final Action Plan is available for the public through citizens' informational center at the municipality and on the web site of PPC Shtip, and is also distributed to interested institutions and NGOs.
- The draft Action Plan for the waste management has been presented in front of Local Self Government Council and adopted by them.

Final results and outcomes

Although the project manages to draft the plan for the better waste management, the process lacked some political support and willingness to change the present situation. Due to the fact that officials are afraid of facing citizens and having a dialogue with them, many key officials did not take part of the process.

Nevertheless, the process stimulated the Local Self Government to have more intensive communication with the public institutions responsible for the Utility hygienic as well as making contact with some of the representatives from the Court and the Local Secretariat for Internal Affairs in Shtip. After some pictures were shown on the initial meeting about polluted location, the cleaning company Isar started immediately to clean some of the areas.