

Serbia

Together with Less Litter (Municipality of Trstenik)

Implemented by NGO Center for Development "Fokus"

Implementation period: Dec 2005-Nov 2006

Project background

Rural residents surrounding Trstenik municipality practice illegal dumping due to a variety of technical and financial reasons. As a consequence, a number of wild dump sites have developed which are threatening Trstenik's drinking water supply as well as its soil and air quality. With the passing of the Law on Local Self-Government, communal waste management belongs to municipal authorities, who are just now becoming aware of the necessity of cooperating with local citizens to enhance environmental protection. The project managed by Fokus is undertaking a number of activities to bring authorities, the public and waste collecting stakeholders together to find a manageable solution, including selecting sites for temporary waste disposal in the target villages of Pocekovina, Stopanja, Velika Drenova, Milutovac, and Grabovac.



Activities implemented

Meetings were organized with all interested parties involved in local ecological problem solving.

- Materials were prepared and distributed to inform the public that Public Utility Enterprise will start creating the Plan for communal waste collecting in rural areas.
- Materials were collected and prepared related to the legal regulations of the communal waste management and distributed to locals.
- Public campaign has been initiated on the possibilities of public participation in decision making process concerning environmental protection and waste management (distribution of the posters, creation of radio jingle, press conference).
- Round table was held on the possibilities of public participation in the decision-making with regard to the local waste problem and collection of priority ideas in relation to the local waste plan of the villages.
- The specialized department of Trstenik municipality through its representative presented the plan of waste management during 5 open forums that brought together locals in each of the villages of Velika Drenova, Stopanja, Pocekovina, Milutovac, Grabovac local authority.
- Previous to the meetings locals were provided with the summary of the plans in an information leaflet, while during the forums due to high number of attendance and later on due to the TV program that covered the meetings increased number of public input was collected and incorporated into the document that is named "Plan for waste collecting in rural areas of Trstenik municipality".

- In November, during a public meeting the Municipality of Trstenik presented and adopted the final draft document, and decided that part of finances of ecological fund of the municipality is to be spent on sanitation of wild waste deposits in Grabovac, Stopanja and Pocekovina.



- Follow to this an agreement was signed made with representatives of public utility company and with representatives of private waste collection company that the sanitation of wild waste deposits in Grabovac, Stopanja and Pocekovina should be implemented till the end of November while the negotiations regarding the collecting and sorting the secondary raw materials was started as well as defining the location where the containers for sorting of plastic, paper and metals will be placed.

Final result and outcomes

The activities of the pilot created conditions for an inclusive problem solving and decision making with regard to the waste collection and further waste management plans. Raising the awareness of the local inhabitants regarding the process of developing this plan and how, when and where they can bring their contribution while Municipality of Trstenic and its public utility company was ready to receive the input of the public into a plan for which they bear the responsibility of implementation.

As added value the authority after adopting the plan allocated the finances, started negotiations with a waste collection company not only for collection the household waste but also to clean up the illegal waste sites as well as for sorting and treatment of secondary raw materials. The public will monitor the process via appointed ecological custodians that will inform the public utility company in case of failures in the process of waste collection.

