#### **State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO**

# WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN DLHÉ NAD CIROCHOU

# CONNECTING STRUCTURALLY WEAK REGIONS TO THE SEWER NETWORK



Only around 60% of households in Slovakia are connected to the sewer network. Switzerland is supporting the municipality of Dlhé nad Cirochou with the construction of a 4.8 kilometre sewer network. This will give more than 1,800 inhabitants access to the wastewater system. In addition, the capacity of the existing wastewater treatment system will be almost doubled.

Water pollution remains a major environmental issue in the new EU member states. One of the reasons for this is the lack of wastewater systems. Only 60% of households in Slovakia are connected to the



sewer system. The situation is particularly precarious in eastern Slovakia. A wastewater system was established in the municipality of Dlhé nad Cirochou back in 2002. However, this only catered to half of the population.

# PROTECTING WATER AND IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

Switzerland is investing CHF 2.8 million into the expansion of the sewer system in Dlhé nad Cirochou.

- The aim is to have 95% of the 2,100 inhabitants of Dlhé nad Cirochou connected to the sewer system by 2016. To this end, a 4.8 kilometre sewer network is to be built.
- The capacity of the existing wastewater treatment system will be almost doubled. The neighbouring community of Modra nad Cirochou also stands to benefit.
- An information campaign will be used to make the population aware of the environmental issues.

The project will help Slovakia to meet EU standards in terms of water protection by 2015. It will also improve the living conditions within the municipality.

# OTHER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECTS

The enlargement contribution will serve to build/modernise a total of 55 kilometres of sewer network. 10,000 inhabitants will be connected to the sewer network. In addition, in nine Slovakian municipalities over four times more wastewater can be treated thanks to the expansion and construction of waste water treatment systems.

Switzerland is investing around CHF 27 million in six wastewater projects in Slovakia. The most poorly developed areas in the regions of Prešov and Kosice will take priority. Three of the six projects will be implemented in these focal regions.



With the implementation of this project, the public sewage system in Dlhé nad Cirochou, including secondary sewage channels, is to be completed, and the capacity of the existing sewage treatment plant is to be increased.

For the population, this means that the high cost for the periodic emptying of the existing and often leaky cesspits will be reduced and that the wastewater will no longer seep away into the ground. Thus the pollution of the groundwater in wells, which the population still uses for commercial purposes such as irrigation, will decrease.

From the perspective of the municipality and companies operating within its territory, the attractiveness of the region for housing and business will increase, as a result of which public revenue will increase and jobs can be created. The improvement of the sewage system and expansion of the sewage treatment plant will also give rise to new business opportunities in the area of rural tourism.

Since a lower volume of untreated and polluted water will flow into the Cirocha river, it will be possible to preserve the quality of surface bodies of water in the region.

This project will also contribute towards the achievement of the objective of economic and social cohesion in Slovakia, in particular as a result of the increase in the number of inhabitants who are connected to the public sewage system and its upgraded sewage treatment plant.

Thanks to the publicity relating to this project, Switzerland will become more visible in the less affluent regions of Slovakia. The population is being informed that Switzerland is helping solve problems in our region and enabling our community to catch up with more developed and less marginalised regions of Slovakia.

Jan Kniz, Mayor of Dlhé nad Cirochou



#### THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

#### **SUBJECT**

Wastewater treatment

#### COUNTRY

Slovakia

# STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Only around 60% of households in Slovakia are connected to the sewer network.

# PURPOSE

The living conditions in the municipality will be improved and water protected from contamination by expanding the infrastructure for collecting and treating wastewater.

#### ACTIVITIES

The sewer system and wastewater treatment system will be expanded. Awareness will be raised among the general public by means of an information campaign.

# TARGET GROUPS

Inhabitants and companies of the municipality of Dlhé nad Cirochou and Modra nad Cirochou

# COSTS

Total project budget: CHF 3.29 million Swiss contribution: CHF 2.8 million

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Municipality of Dlhé nad Cirochou

# **DURATION**

2012 - 2016