



Земя Завинаги
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Safe Water for Small Communities

16.10.2012
Stara Zagora Municipality, Hall 1

The Closing conference in Stara Zagora was implemented in close partnership with the Regional Health Inspectorate Stara Zagora, Water and Sanitation Company Stara Zagora and Regional Inspectorate on Environmental and Water Protection Stara Zagora, with the kind support of Stara Zagora Municipal Government.



The event took place in the City Hall and involved 53 participants representing various stakeholders from 5 Bulgarian regions: Stara Zagora, Sliven, Yambol, Burgas and Sofia

Representatives of water quality control bodies (RZI and RIOSV), water operators, rural development institutions, municipal experts and councillors, village mayors, university professors, journalists, NGOs, activists of women community groups and community centres, teachers and pupils gathered together to share their concern and to mobilize for further collaboration on improved water quality from small communities.

Consultation and advice on analysis of specific data for the needs of this closing conference was provided by prof. Georgi Baltakov (geomorphology and climatology of Quaternary) and prof. Dimitar Topliyski (climatology of Bulgaria) from Sofia University, as well as by Mrs. Shinee Enkhtsetseg from the Joint UNECE and WHO-EURO Secretariat servicing the Protocol on Water and Health.

The event started with the registration of participants and signing the participation list and receiving their conference badges. Pupils from the project schools alerted the participants about the need to wash regularly their hands and disseminated stickers and badges for the World Handwashing Day – Oct. 15.

The participants were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of Stara Zagora – Mrs. Ivanka Sotirova, and the Secretary in Chief of the Regional Health Inspectorate Stara Zagora – eng. Svetla Karastoyanova.

The series of presentations was open by Mrs. Margriet Samwel, Project Leader, WECD, presenting Water Safety Plans as a tool for holistic approach for safe water. Mrs. Samwel presented the Water Safety Plan Compendium developed in English and Bulgarian during the project implementation. The representatives of 4 schools participating immediately expressed interest to receive and use a copy of the Compendium in Bulgarian to be used in their schools during the current school year 2012-2013.

In her presentation Mrs. Diana Iskrova from Earth Forever, Project coordinator for Stara Zagora Municipality, emphasized on the needs and benefits of community mobilization in the effort to attain and maintain safe water quality for communities. Mrs. Bistra Mihaylova, Ecoworld, project Coordinator for Pravets Municipality, presented the example of safe water on the territory of Pravets Municipality – participation of 3 schools in the project, 2 secondary schools in Vidrare and Razliv and language high school in Pravets.

The morning session was closed with the presentation of school projects on Safe Water Plans in the villages of Kaloyanovets and Hrishteni, Stara Zagora Municipality. The teachers Mrs. Tonka Ivanova



and Mrs. Dinka Angelova presented the work implemented in the schools, the methodology used, the benefits for their pupils and communities achieved as a result of the implementation of the project. Representatives of the pupils involved in the project from both schools greeted the audience with thematic short plays, songs and an animated fairy tail (The Soap and His Army) that they produced in the process of the implementation of the project.



Rapping children from the primary school in Kaloyanovets.

"We need the Earth. We need the water. I love cleanliness and I befriend with water. Water is for drinking. Water is for washing. Learn your lesson – water is a precious friend, water is a valuable gift; the one who values it, s/he will change the world. Preserve and safe water; be its good proprietor and think about the future. It is impossible to live and survive without water. After playing with the ball and going out for a walk, take warm water and soap and wash so that your Mummy does not reprimand. Brush hard with the soap among the fingers and toes so that the foam cleans you like a gum. Hey, you, do not dawdle! Protect your life. Clean your Earth! Preserve your water!", rapped the children from the primary school in Kaloyanovets.

After the working lunch, the afternoon session consisted of a number of technical presentations on water quality and safety from various points of view:

- Monitoring of water in small settlements, Katalina Valkova, MD, Chief of Department, regional Health Inspectorate Stara Zagora
- Water we cannot do without. Challenges we meet to supply it safe, eng. Svetlozar Zhelev, Head of department, Water and Sanitation Company Stara Zagora
- With Love for Life, presentation of the book, Truphon Mitev, Stara Zagora Foundation
- Quality of wastewater in small settlements in Stara Zagora Region, Mihail Mihaylov, Regional Inspectorate on Environment and Water

The closing debate concentrated on the need of collaboration of all stakeholders for the reconstruction and safe maintenance of traditional villages drinking water fountains based on local water sources that are the most reliable source of drinking water for the local population in situations of extreme droughts. A working plan was developed to raise and address this issue with priority in the context of drought in Bulgaria after an extremely hot and dry summer and autumn of 2012 and climate change tendency for the territory of Bulgarian and the Balkan Peninsular as a whole.

Further plans for collaboration among stakeholders were developed during the closing at a glass of beer.

The closing event attracted significant media attention with 26 publications in various types of media: internet based media, newspapers, radio, TV.

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