

**UNDP ART GOLD Programme and IDEASS**  
**guest of the National Conference and Exhibition**  
**“Waste Water Management in Albania, a Social**  
**Environmental and Economic Mandate”**

**November 2008**

The *Albanian Water Supply and Sewerage Association* organized, on November 05-07 2008, its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition in Tirana, “Waste Water Management in Albania, a Social Environmental and Economic Mandate” in collaboration with the Albanian Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Faculty of Civil Engineering, EWA- European Water Association, Teqja International, Valu Add Management Services, and with the financial support GTZ- German Technical Cooperation.

The Conference was attended by Vice- Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Genc Pollo; Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Mr. Sokol Oldashi; Deputy Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Mr. Stavri Ristani; Deputy Minister of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, Mr. Aleksander Garuli;



Deputy Minister of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, Mr. Taulant Bino; Deputy Minister of Public Health, Mr. Arben Ivanaj; Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Mr. Ekrem Spahia; Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Mr. Eno Bozdo; Deputy Minister of the Interior and Local Government, Mr. Ferdinand Poni; Deputy Minister of Science and Education, Mr. Halit Shamata; General Directorate of Water Supply and Sewerage, General Director, Mr. Taulant Zeneli; Chairman, Water Regulatory Commission, Mr. Avni Dervishi; Technical Secretariat of National Water Council, Mr. Skender Hasa, Representative from Ministry of Environment; Dean Civil Engineering Faculty, Head of Engineering Association, Representative from Donor’s Coordination Committee, Mr. Andrea Maliqari; Chairman Association of Regions of Albania, Mr. Tahsim Mema; Chairman Association of Municipalities of Albania, Mr. Refik Rugija; Chairman Association of Communes of Albania, Mr. Sabri Sollaku; Students Representative from Civil Engineering Faculty, Department of Environment; Representative EU, Environmental Directorate, Regional Partner Association; European Water Association Mrs. Carmille Nuahmah, Representative The World Bank.

The official invitation to participate in the most important event of the water sector was forwarded to UNDP/ART GOLD Albania Programme and IDEASS Programme, by the Albanian Water Supply and Sewerage Association.

An exhibit space of about 6 square meters was dedicated to the UNDP/ART GOLD Albania Programme and IDEASS Programme, which participated in the National Conference as exhibitor

with 7 panels representing the *Ecological School of Narta, Constructed Wetland for treatment of wastewater, re-use of rain water, rehabilitation of the green and sporting grounds and didactical path.*



The Conference started with a Gala Reception on Wednesday evening, 5 November, at 18:00 pm where the Albanian Water Supply and Sewerage Association hosted senior members of the Government of Albania, as well as all attending guests. During this Gala Reception, the Exhibition area was formally opened and guests were invited to view the products and services of the exhibitors to the Conference. The overall theme selected of the Conference was “Waste Water Management in Albania, a Social Environmental and Economic Mandate”.

**The first day** of the Conference dealt mainly with the waste water management issue, in the political prospect. A special attention was paid to the transfer reform of the water supply and sewerage sector in Albania, and the challenges faced by the local governments.

Mrs. Enkelejda Patozi, Advisor to the Albanian Prime Minister on Water Issues, made a brief presentation: “Assessment of current and planned investments in wastewater treatment” in Albania. In 2008 capital investments in the water supply and sewerage sector are estimated to reach 7.5 billion leks, of which 3.3 billion leks comes from the state budget, and 4.2 billion leks from the donor’s assistance-said Mrs. Patozi. In 2010 the Government will implement investments in the wastewater treatment plants across Albania that will eventually serve an estimated 1.6 million of the country’s inhabitants-added Mrs. Patozi.

With regard to water and sewage treatment systems it is necessary to consider cost benefit implications, reference standards, level of treatment, adequate technology, etc. Wastewater Policy Issues Needing to Be Addressed in Albania

- Effluent Standards vs. Receiving Water Quality Standards,
- Affordable Standards Based on Investment Costs,
- Sustainable Standards Based on Operations and Maintenance Costs.

Ministry Public Works has elaborated a study in light of decentralized sanitation, which will serve to the isolated or rural areas and their respective sewerage system is expensive to be built and maintained.



The “Constructed Wetland” System, natural depuration of wastewaters realized in a primary school of Narta (Vlore Region) in the framework of UNDP ART GOLD Programme and IDEASS in collaboration with GEF/UNDP (Global Environmental Fond) project, the UNDP/MedWetCoast Project, the Albanian Ministry of Environment and Local Authorities of Narta village, AULEDA (Local Economic Development Agency, represents an important step in the further implementation of this methodology, as a decentralized model, on a wider scale, in Albania - added Mrs. Patozi.

The Reform in the water supply and sewerage sector has been developed in full compliance with the Government's program, standards and pledge concerning decentralization, and is in



accordance with its SAA (Stability Pact) obligations and progress toward EU integration-said Mrs. Patozi. The leadership for overseeing the implementation of the stated reform will be provided by the Minister of Public Works, Transports and Telecommunications. The involved stakeholders in this reform process include 20 Central Government and National Level institutions, all local government units, and the donor community- said Mrs. Patozi.

The ARPAT expert Mrs. Beatrice Pucci made a professional presentation on the "Constructed Wetland" System realized in Narta's School,

Vlora Region in the framework of UNDP/ART GOLD and IDEASS Programme. The pilot system consists in an innovative natural water purification process, realized with the technical assistance of the Regional Agency for the Environmental Protection of Tuscany (ARPAT).

The "Constructed Wetlands" system takes advantage of a process that occurs spontaneously in nature, and it make use of biological agents to provide higher water purification levels. Optimal purification results; simple operating mechanisms; low energy consumption; adaptability to load variations; maximum blending with landscape; economic advantages; low operating costs; reduced energy consumption; possibility of re-using treated waters; environmental restoration of degraded sites, there are some of the advantages of using constructed wetlands -said Mrs. Pucci.



**The second day** of the Conference focused on technical issues where a whole session treated the selecting and applying criteria of production, zone, and customer water meters. A special session was dedicated to present samples of trainings developed by the association for its members: Water Loss Management; Asset Management; Business Planning.

