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Gdanska Fundacja Wody : Polish national training centre for water professions

- International Office for Water - Cooperation - International actions - Vocational training and engineering -

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The setting-up in Gdansk of the Polish National Training Centre for Water Professions, between 1994 and 1998, required the total amount of 11.4 million French francs. This was co-financed by the French national and decentralised co-operation and Danish co-operation, the Polish Authorities and by the European Community's "LIFE programme for the Baltic".

The Gdanska Fundacja Wody that owns and manages the Training Centre, is a Foundation regulated by Polish law. Its founding members are the Polish Ministry of the Environment, Gdansk Voivodship, City Hall and Regional Environment Fund, as well as the Freshwater Centre (Denmark), the Limousin Region and the International Office for Water (IOWater).

The Centre currently has a full time staff of seven.

Located in the centre of Gdansk , the administrative head office has the required offices and conference rooms, computerised and audio-visual equipment and a documentation service, including access to the "EAUDOC" database that can be consulted locally or on-line via the Internet.

A technical-educational unit, designed according to the practical training principles, applied for many years by the French Training Centre for Water Professions (OIWater) in Limoges-La Souterraine. This enables employees and technicians of Polish water utilities to attend continuous vocational training under real working conditions.

The technical unit, built on the premises of the Wschöd wastewater treatment plant (Gdansk city), consists of various educational units, most offered by 30 French companies: a pilot wastewater treatment plant provided by STEREAU company, a laboratory for water analysis and an educational drinking water supply system for the training on leak detection, using materials provided by the Pont-à-Mousson Company.

Today, GFW offers a complete range of professional training courses. This is available to employees at all levels of the municipalities, administrations and companies in all regions of Poland and the riparian countries of the Baltic Sea (the Baltic countries...). The training courses are conducted in Polish and are charged at cost price, in zlotis, to the trainees' employers.

The first training programmes were organised in the second half of 1995, and today enjoy a huge success, which is illustrated by increasing participation rising : 146 participants in 1995, 506 in 1996, 715 in 1997, 723 in 1998, 1,000 in 1999 and 1,100 in 2000.

Thirty one courses were thus organised last year.

GFW plans to have more than 1,300 trainees in 2001.

GFW, associated with the International Office for Water and Hungarian, Czech and Romanian partners, has been entrusted by the European Commission with the implementation of the international distance learning programme, WAWAMAN (Water and Wastewater Management). This programme aims to train executives from countries of Central and Eastern Europe for their accession to the European Union.

GFW training courses and seminars IN 2001

Drinking water supply:

- Automation of the drinking water supply system operation
- Microbiological analyses of drinking water
- Principles for operating water mains in rural areas
- Recent developments in water treatment plants
- Leaks in water supply systems: detection, methods for cleaning and renovating the systems

Sanitation:

- Operation of wastewater treatment plants: problems and practical solutions for wastewater and sludge management
- Optimisation of the operation of wastewater treatment plants using activated sludge
 - for technicians
- Optimisation of the operation of wastewater treatment plants using activated sludge
 - for operators
- Analysis of the construction and operating costs of wastewater treatment plants
- Wastewater management in rural areas - legal, technical and economic aspects

Water quality:

- Use of quality procedures in water analysis laboratories
- The control function of a laboratory in the operating of wastewater treatment plants
- Sanitary recommendations for swimming pools
- Covered swimming pools. Operational problems and design of a project

Legal and regulatory aspects:

- Reform of the State administration sharing of responsibilities and assignments regarding environmental protection
- Water conservation: regulations concerning the construction of small wastewater treatment plants

PARTICIPATION OF 30 FRENCH COMPANIES

(Supply of pilot units and equipment, contribution to training courses, technological information and supervision of trainees during study tours in France)

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