

Modernization of Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Bulgarian Danube River Region

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Background

The Danube forms the common border of Bulgaria and Romania for a stretch of about 400 km. The population of the Bulgarian Danube Region is about half a million. The Region is a priority area for environmental improvements and subject of a number of international agreements and cross-border cooperation initiatives between Romania and Bulgaria.

Danube Region municipalities face severe problems in municipal solid waste management (MSWM). MSWM is operated with obsolete and high cost techniques, landfills do not meet environmental standards and are a major source of pollution, (including of groundwater and surface water resources, and thus of the Danube itself). Waste minimization and reprocessing and recycling of waste are activities to be yet started. Cooperation between municipalities is a requirement for cost effective MSWM and for modern regional landfill operations, but is as yet not practiced. Investments funds are scarce and the Association of Danube River Municipalities wishes to develop opportunities for private sector participation in the modernization of MSWM.