

Title: Karlovac's waterworks and sewage

Country: CRO

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Summary:

In the small office of Karlovac's Waterworks and Sewage town company, a three-member team has been working from morning to night for months on a project for the European Union. They have the task to describe the current state of Karlovac's rivers and water supplies, draw up a financial report of their company, but also one for the whole town, as well as draw up a long-term strategy of water supplies and drainage. The town Karlovac lies on four rivers. One of these rivers is very polluted and swimming in this river could have been a health hazard, because all production plant sewage was drained into it. Now they like to fit a water filter to solve the problem. Moreover, 10 kilometres of new sewage network will be constructed, old asbestos water pipes replaced and seven new pumping stations built.

Text:

In the small office of the Waterworks and Sewage town company, a three-member team has been working for months on a project for the European Union. They have put in hundreds of extra work hours and typed up tens of thousands of pages, tables, calculations... Kresimir Veble is the man in charge. He says that the regular working hours of the office are between half past seven in the morning and half past three in the afternoon, but this has not been the case for his team...

KRESIMIR VEBLE, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (16 sec.)

"When the deadline got close, when we had to hand in the paperwork, we were soldiering on until midnight."

This is just a fraction of the documents we had forwarded to Brussels. We had to describe the current state of the Karlovac rivers and water supplies, draw up a financial report of our company, but also one for the whole town, as well as draw up a long-term strategy of water supplies and drainage.

KRESIMIR VEBLE, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (29 sec.)

"In this cramped office we have just a single file cabinet which is absolutely filled, forcing us to keep all of our documents in cardboard boxes. Let's see: 12 times 700 pages, that amounts to nearly 8,000 pages which we have handed over to the Foreign and European Integration Ministry."

Before the money was allocated, Brussels had dispatched their investigators twice. They wanted to learn all the details about the project.

TATJANA STEPINAC, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (10 sec.)

"How many flows of waste water come down each drain line or what we are planning to finance, which parts are needed for replacement of drainage, concrete stuff etc..."

A young translator is also part of the team. She landed a job right after graduation, but not because she had good connections, but rather following a recommendation from a foreign consulting firm.

IVANA SELJAN, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (20 sec.)

"A subsidiary of the Jacobs International Consulting Company whose representatives arrived in Karlovac had invited me for an interview which was rather laid back and they were looking for a person who would be willing to be on call 24 hours a day and to also work overtime, if the need arises."

The serious efforts made while preparing the project resulted in a positive response from Brussels. This means a lot of changes for the town, which lies on four rivers.

(IT TONE – leap into Korana, swimming)

Swimming in the Korana River was at your own risk last year, as the river can sometimes be polluted over the summer!

(IT TONE – winter idyll on the Korana River)

stand up

"In this winter wonderland not many think about the summer months when the announcements of the County Public Health Institute are of the utmost importance, as they report on the pollution levels in the Korana. Although a very popular pastime, swimming in this river can be a health hazard. All production plant sewage is drained straight into the river!"

(IT TONE – waterfall water sounds)

By fitting a water filter, the problem will be solved forever. Also, 10 kilometres of new sewage network will be constructed, old asbestos water pipes replaced and seven new pumping stations built.

KRESIMIR VEBLE, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (20 sec.)

"This means that these water wells that are situated on the other bank of the Korana will be safe for further exploitation, as until now they have been endangered by the untreated waste that was pumped into the Mreznica River, thus flowing into Korana as well."

This means that a huge workload is ahead! The small team at Karlovac's Waterworks and Sewage will be assisted in this by an international consulting company, which it will soon pick through a public tender.

KRESIMIR VEBLE, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (11 sec.)

"The consultants will train our team members to be able to lead projects financed from international sources. We have to be ready to learn a great deal."

Veble is expecting stringent controls regarding each euro spent, but he is not worried about this. Being a long-time member of the Rotary club he has experience in humanitarian work.

KRESIMIR VEBLE, Waterworks and Sewage, Karlovac (20 sec.)

"I know about the Rotary donations for mine-clearing, where each of the donated kuna or euro is tracked in many ways."

Until 2007, all the tenders need to be completed, while by 2010, everything must be completed and paid for. Needless to say that in this type of tasks deadlines are often overstepped, some oversights are made when putting out tenders etc. The European Union is authorised to at any time ask for the invested money to be returned!