

# How WECF is working

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**WECF**

**Women in Europe for a Common Future**

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# WECF network in EU + EECCA region





# Situation in the EECCA countries - Rural Areas

(Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria,  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kirgistan, Uzbekistan,  
Kazachstan, Tadjikistan)

- More than half of rural people are not connected to a sewage system or central water supply
- Pit latrines are used for sanitation
- Wells or unprotected sources are used for drinking water
- People are engaged in subsistence agriculture
- Main problems: Increasing poverty, unemployment, perspectivelessness, lack of services.

**Garla Mare,  
Romania  
3500 inhabitants**



**1200 households  
with pit-latrines  
in yard**



**Water from  
400 private  
wells  
78 public wells**



**2001-2003 MATRA project  
“Safe drinking water”,  
construction of dry u.d.  
toilets  
WECF-M&S**





# Situation in rural areas of Bulgaria and Romania - 1

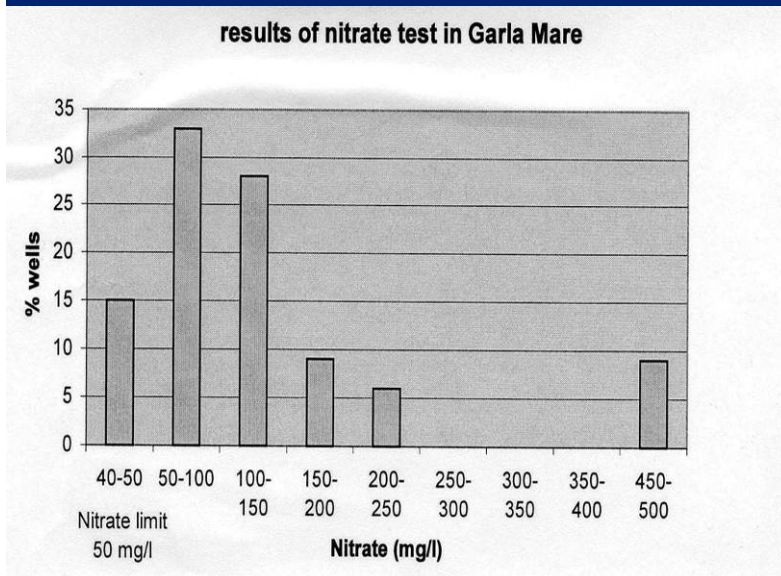




Well water is partly contaminated by high nitrate levels, pesticides



# Results of investigation: *Extreme high levels of nitrates and faecal bacteria*



- **Nitrate:** *average 120 mg/l (EU limit 50 mg/l)*
- **Faecal bacteria:** *Acc. to EU guideline water would not even be safe for bathing*



## Health effects:

Immediate: *intestinal, parasite diseases, diarrhoea, blue-baby-disease (methaemoglobinaemia)*

Long- term: *thyroid*



# Sources of pollution: *Latrines and agriculture*

Pit latrines in people's gardens

In general the latrines are not sealed and not emptied

Bad maintenance of wells

Intensive agriculture;  
livestock in yards

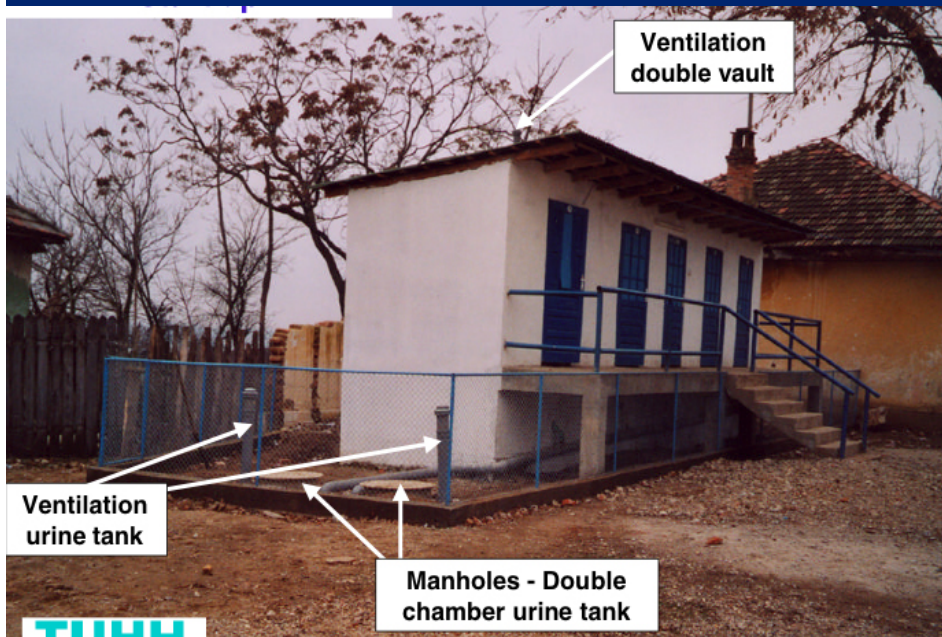
Recent study: Underneath villages groundwater nitrate pollution more severe than underneath agricultural land





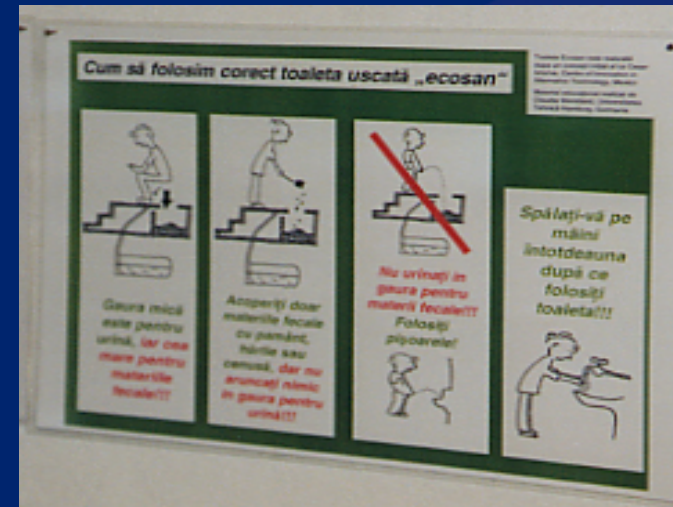
# Double vault dry urine diverting toilets for school in Garla Mare

*Design: Hamburg University of Technology*





# Wash basins and filters installed in schools and dispensary



Training in school on how to use the UDD toilets



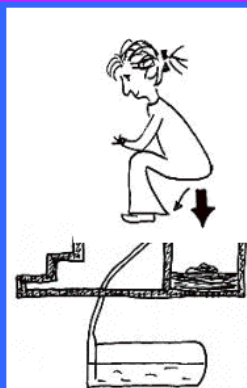


# How to ensure sustainability?

- Own contribution of beneficiaries
- Village committee
- Awareness raising and trainings
- Integrated approach to water, agriculture and health



**Cum s\_ folosim corect toaleta uscat\_ „ecosan“**



**Gaura mic\_ este pentru urin\_ , iar cea mare pentru materiile fecale!!!**



**Acoperi\_i doar materiile fecale cu pamânt, h\_rtie sau cenus\_ , dar nu arunca\_i nimic in gaura pentru urin\_!!!**

**Sp\_la\_i-v\_ pe mâini întotdeauna dup\_ ce folosi\_i toaleta!!!**



Toaleta Ecosan este realizat\_ după un concept\_ ini\_ lial al Cesar Alvarez, Center of Innovation In Alternative Technology, Mexico. Material educa\_ loral realizat de Claudia Wendland, Universitatea Technic\_ Hamburg, Germania.



# Local needs

- Poverty reduction
  - Provision of fertilizer
  - Comfort
  - Status
  - Integrate with priority topics e.g. Water
  - ‘Development committees’
- Participatory approach based on local needs



# It happened that household toilets end up as chicken house

- Pilot phase – no demonstration available
- Technical problems – freezing
- Lack of post monitoring
- Ecosan too top down?
- Lack of ownership?
- Beneficiaries not well chosen

# Barriers

- Sanitation not a direct priority
- Sanitation is a taboo
- Poverty
- Dependency on  
slaps from China
- National /EU  
Legislation





# Acceptance of Urine as Fertiliser by Farmers and Authorities



Photo: Crepa, Burkina Faso

# Principles to Avoid Failing of Sanitation Projects

- ✓ Promoting behaviour change
- ✓ Reaching schoolchildren
- ✓ Giving families a choice
- ✓ Community planning and management
- ✓ Cost sharing
- ✗ A narrow focus on technology
- ✗ Ignoring the family as a whole
- ✗ 'A one system fits all approach'
- ✗ A top-down approach
- ✗ Limited access to funds and credits



# Scientific Literature

Build on empirical data

*Many studies have shown (even statistically) that participatory projects are more successful in achieving their goals than 'Top Down' projects*

*'One study of 25 completed World Bank agricultural projects found that continued success was associated clearly with local institution building' (Pretty, 2003).*

# What is participation?

To enable people to take their development into their own hands

Different levels of participation:

- 0. Top down implementation
- 1. Information
- 2. Consultation
- 3. Deciding together
- 4. Acting together
- 5. Supporting independent community initiatives

Degree of control





# How to ensure participation

- ✓ Building trust
- ✓ Building local capacity
- ✓ Facilitate group learning
- ✓ Valuing and making use of local knowledge
- ✓ Putting local people as experts
- ✓ 'Farmers First'

# Methodologies for participation

## Facilitation of development

- **Research** - PRA's; Ranking; Village mapping, Brainstorming, Venn-diagrams, Problem/Objective trees, etc
- **Planning** – PRA's Ranking, Community action planning, etc.
- **Awareness raising** – PHAST, WSP, Nitrate testing
- **Implementation** – Village/project Committees, Community action planning



# Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)

PRA is a family of approaches and methods to enable local people (rural and urban) to express, enhance, share and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions, to plan and act

# From local to global level

## Sanitation

80% of the world's and 90% of Europe's urban population is discharged without treatment, with serious consequences for the environment and the people.

More public funds are needed for pollution prevention and wastewater treatment. Investments in water supply and sanitation bring economic growth, create jobs and lower fees and inequalities.

Decentralized water treatment systems are less often favored, while often the better solution may be a decentralized system such as incineration.

Civil society including women and minority groups must be included in decision-making.

México 2006  
IV Foro Mundial  
del Agua

México

CONAGUA  
Comisión Nacional del Agua

Acciones  
locales  
para un  
replanteo global

World Water Forum 4 in Mexico 2006



# Mexico 2006 IV Foro Mundial del Agua



Acciones  
locales  
para un  
reto global



Elke Mülegger



Kajetan Hetzer



Hortencia Medina



Silviana Bokhari



Carolina Lobo









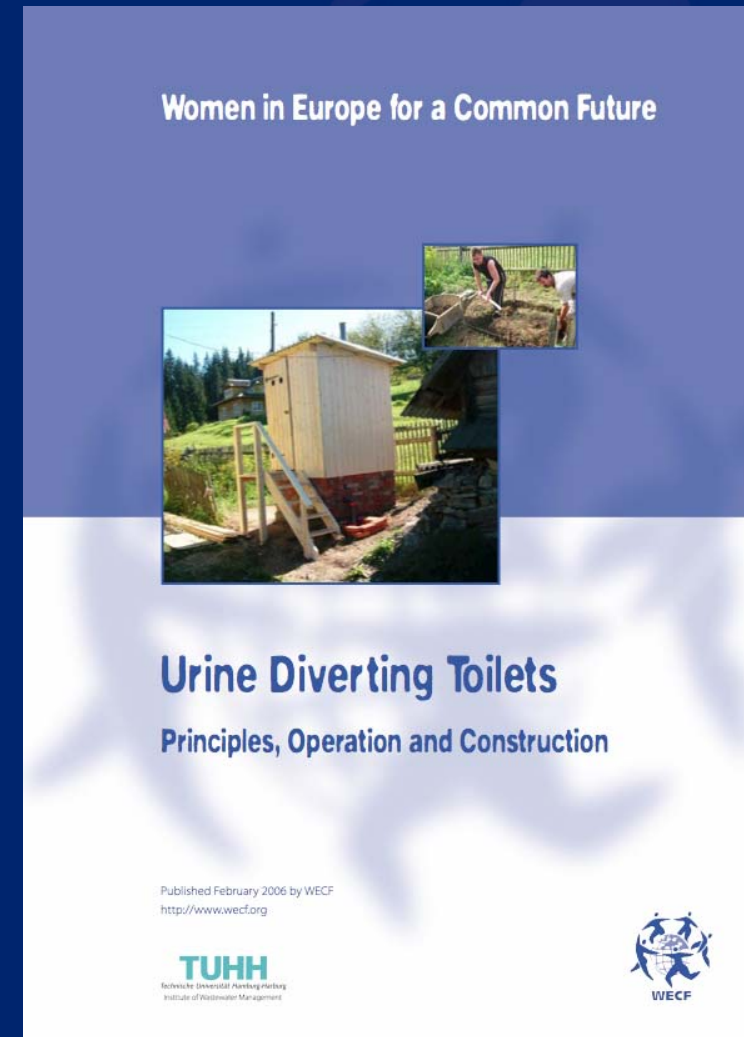
# Ecosan study visit, Mexico, to Cesar Anorve



# New Publications

To download: [www.wecf.eu/publication](http://www.wecf.eu/publication)

- ✓ Poster: the benefits of ecological sanitation
- ✓ Brochure: Urine diverting toilets, principles, operation and construction
- ✓ Case Study: From pit latrine to ecological toilet





# 2008 - Year of sanitation

- **MDG nr. 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**
  - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- EU funds go to centralized sanitation systems; maintenance costs can not be covered
- Rural areas no priority
- EU cohesion funds don't include <2000 inhabitants
- No adequate legislation for use of human excreta

# Overview on WECF activities related to the IYS 2008

More than 20 Million people in the EU lack Safe Sanitation

- High-Level Policy Dialogue on “EU Sanitation Policies and Practices” in Brussels, Belgium, on January 29, 2008
- High-Level Seminar “Europe’s Sanitation Problem” Stockholm World Water Week, on August 19, 2008



# Stockholm World Water Week







www.wecf.eu



WECEF | Women in Europe for a Common Future



For not more than 200 - 600 Euro per household each family in the EU could have this: a hygienic, safe...

Safe Water and Sanitation

www.wecf.eu

Sustainable Sanitation

Safe

- Environmental protection
- Sanitation costs
- Hygiene
- Safety

# Further activities

- **Launch of a Policy Paper on Sustainable Sanitation “Safe Sanitation: a challenge we can meet together”** by the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, supported by more than 20 German and international organisations – August 2008
- **In Preparation: Regional Policy Dialogue on Sanitation in Kyrgystan**, on November 11, 2008, organised by WECF and regional partner NGOs
- **World Water Forum in Istanbul 2009**
  - European Document
  - Contribution submission until end of September



A large, faint, stylized graphic of a globe is positioned on the right side of the slide. The globe is composed of a grid of lines representing latitude and longitude, and is surrounded by abstract, flowing shapes that suggest movement or a network. The entire graphic is rendered in a lighter shade of blue than the background.

**Thank you!**