Water Operators’ Partnerships in South East Europe

Faraj El-Awar
Program Manager, GWOPA, un-Habitat
INBO-Europe, Istanbul, 17th October 2012
Presentation Overview

- Introduction to WOPs
- The Global WOPs Alliance
- WOPs in South East Europe
- Invitation to get involved
What are WOPs?

Not-for-profit partnerships carried out between 2 or more water and sanitation operators in the goal of developing their capacity.
What is the Global WOPs Alliance

- An **UNSGAB** initiative, within its **Hashimoto Action Plan** to develop a global mechanism to scale-up peer support between water operators to address capacity gaps towards the MDGs.

- GWOPA was launched as a **network of partners** allied in the common goal of supporting WOPs. Its **Secretariat** hosted and funded by UN-HABITAT, guided by international, multi-stakeholder **steering committee**.

- **Charter** and **Code-of-Conduct** established to elaborate Hashimoto principles.

  “**helping water operators help one another**”
Regional WOPs Platforms

- To act as a forum for exchange between operators within regions as well as an entry point for exchange with other regions.

- International Peer support was the norm. Hashimoto introduced intra-regional focus with growing number of strong public operators from ‘weaker’ regions.

- Advantages of Regional Approach?
  - Contextual similarity
  - Geographical proximity (follow-up, footprint)
  - Strong performers in ‘weak’ regions
  - Opportunities for solidarity
WOP-SEE: Supporting WOPs Regionally

- Regional platform for operators within the SEE region to exchange and learn from one another.

- Current focus SEE, though aims also to:
  - draw on support of Western and Northern Europe
  - progressively move support into Central Asia

- The overall goal is to provide better and equitable Water and Sanitation services to all in the Region
History of WOP-SEE

1. Established political support: Spring 2009
2. Identified Utility Demand: Nov 2009
3. Established steering committee: April 2010
4. Initiated Quick-win WOPs: 2010-2011
Organisation of WOP-SEE

- Activities are planned, coordinated and monitored by a Secretariat and supervised by a Steering Committee (SC)

- The SC includes water and sanitation operators and their national associations but also other interested stakeholders like donors

- The WOP-SEE Programme is coordinated by an interim coordinator, employed by GWOPA, based in Serbia
Invitation to be involved

- WOP-SEE is a multi-stakeholder platform
- It is open to any interested party from the water and sanitation sector
- Engage with us to help European operators help one another

www.gwopa.org
wop-see@gwopa.org
Thanks!