WATER IN ALBANIA

WATER RESOURCES

- Albania is a rich country in water resources, with a total renovating volume of **41.7 billiard m3** dispersed in 6 basins: Drini-Buna, Mat, Ishëm-Erzen, Shkumbin, Seman dhe Vjosë. **3 big lakes** and **247** smaller, occupy **4% of the territory**. Throughout the years have been built **650** reservoirs with a capacity of **5.6 billiard m3** **(**irrigation, floods prevention and energy production. Underground waters contribute **23%** to the total annual flow, supplying **80%** of cities with drinking water.

Actual Situation

…Water is a limited resource, so don't abuse it, even if you find yourself at the bank of a furious river…

SITUATION:

- In 20 years we have invested, but still have problems in all water sectors. Bad management is the only explanation.

- There’s a big unexploited potential of water from the economic, social and nonintegrated management.

FUNCTIONALITY:

- The system is neither centralized nor decentralized, but **fragmented** in processes where water isn’t part of the logic.

- There are inexistent functions, that are not known and nobody does. In the best case scenario there’s no functional link and in the worst case links are wrong, what makes them part of problem’s system.

APPROACH:

- Is in process the “National Integrated Management Strategy of the water” (going to approve in December).
- “The Secretariat of Water” will be above all ministries and will undertake the mission of administration and policy development of the water sector”. It is directly linked with Prime Minister Office.

- In the Ministry of Energy is in charge, dealing only with water sector a deputy minister.
- 25 years have shown that without a realistic strategy, action plan and financial resources we will not improve the dramatic situation in this sector.

- Four years ago we started the huge change in the energy sector and we have had excellent results. Now is the turn of water sector to start the changing.

- We have some very good model of administration of water supply like in Korça and Pogradec helped by GIZ.