

Establishing Bulgaria's National Water and Wastewater Operators' Training Center
USAID Cooperative Agreement #183-A-00-03-00104-00
Covering the period September 20, 2003 to September 30, 2005

The objective of the Cooperative Agreement was to provide technical assistance to the Republic of Bulgaria in the area of water and wastewater operator training. This Project established USAID's first Water and Wastewater Training Center program in Bulgaria. This Project Center provided technical training to operators, supervisors and managers of water and wastewater treatment plants, with the goal of enabling Bulgaria to meet its targets for improving delivery and quality of water and wastewater treatment services. USAID included a funding conditionality clause in the Cooperative Agreement that mandated the passage of Bulgarian legislation requiring operator training and certification. The Project Team also engaged in significant effort to assist the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Environment and Water, and the Bulgarian Parliament's Environment Commission in developing legislation and regulation requiring the training and certification of water and wastewater operators. Shortly after the project end, Bulgaria passed regulations addressing the need for trained water and wastewater operators.