

**INTERVIEW WITH THE WATER QUALITY ENGINEER, MUNICIPAL COMPANY OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE SYSTEM IN ŁÓDŹ**

# Platform to exchange experience

●● Przemysław Senderecki who works for the water company looks like any engineer in any place in the world.

**How did you get involved in the learning alliance?**

A formal letter was sent to the water company that I work in to nominate a representative in the activities of the LA.

I knew about the project from a scientist who is involved with the LA management whom I knew before through other projects. Our company is one of the stakeholders in the learning alliance group.

**What are the benefits that your company will have through its participation?**

We can exchange knowledge with other organizations. We can say a lot as a company about water and sewage management. There are nearly 32 universities engaged in the LA all around the world so it's interesting.

**Did the project open doors for you or your company with the other stakeholders in Łódź?**

It was an opportunity to exchange people and exchange experience.

**By using the approach to be adopted and carried can you see that there is a future for it?**

It is a good project. We have to think about it now. The business and money is important. We need to find a financial support to the alliance.

**In your opinion what are the factors helping and hindering success?**

As I said money is very important and also I would like to increase the speed that we work with. We are working very slowly.

**Do any of your colleagues know about SWITCH?**

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Przemysław Senderecki

No I don't think so. The water company is very difficult because we work day by day. Our directors must be more engaged and give us the support to continue and to spread the learning that we acquire. There are limited numbers of people involved. **Are all the Łódź community groups represented in the LA? Or are their people that you think that must be invited to come along?**

Yes I think so. There are two persons from the government and in the last meeting that we had we analyzed the list of the stakeholders that we have and add the ones that we saw that are important to join us in the alliance.

**What is the process that was made to choose the pilot project?**

There was no specific one as I knew. The pilot was selected before the analysis was made.

I think that it is a really good pilot and this is a shared opinion between the people in the LA. **Are there specific roles you or your companies have in the LA? Are there specific duties the members of the LA must do?**

There is no specific role for the stakeholders. We attend the regular meetings and discuss the issues and problems in these meetings. We try to help in the technical and policy issues (the water company).

**If the SWITCH project didn't exist, do the different stakeholders meet together and discuss the problems of Łódź?**

We meet often with the other stakeholders for different issues and within different projects. The city council sometimes organizes similar meetings. ● INTERVIEW RANIA ANWAR ZOUBI

## The city of sad faces



●● Łódź seems sad when people enter it for the first time. It's quite calm and the people walk in different directions in straight lines with sad expression in their faces.

The history is exhibited everywhere in the city; old and new buildings are side by side in the form of beautiful red brick buildings to the new shiny crystal front ones. Stories are coming out of the people where ever you turned. The stories talk about the sad times that the city had been through and about the wealthy and poor times that succeeded on the people. It talks also about the promises that are hidden in the future with the active movement of some of its "fanatics".

Łódź has an interesting history that can be seen in the place and the people. The flourishing of the textile industry in the early 19th century due to the availability of the suitable natural resources from water and woods attract the people and investors to come to the city. The new architectural styles and the ar-

tistic places and landscaping are samples of the benefits that the city gained from this era. The negative side was the exploitation of the natural resources especially water. While the logo of Łódź municipality is a gondola (small boat) the land tells another story. When the city started to get bigger the local authorities started to think about the needs of the extended population. Water supply was one of their main concerns and they started to build concrete walls around the water flows to save it but by doing this they stopped the recharging of the underground aquifers and caused the death of the local rivers. Łódź now imports water from remote areas that are nearly 50 km away from it. Most of the local rivers are dried and some of them turned to be contaminated with waste water.

A team of enthusiastic citizens are now trying to revive the city and engage it with a wider movement to develop sustainably the local resources along with the local initiatives to restore the old landmarks in the city. They try to make use of the diverse experience that different stakeholders have in the field of urban water management locally and exchange this knowledge internationally with 8 other cities from the world through SWITCH project. ● RANIA ANWAR ZOUBI

## Fishing from the river of knowledge



●● It may not be possible to fish from the Sokolowska River now - maybe in a few years-but if you are fishing for knowledge, you could try the Learning Alliances river.

From the SWITCH watershed flows a river of learning alliances through various cities around the world. SWITCH sheds a lot of ideas. Feeding into the LAs are the tributaries - different partners in research. This week, fishermen from all around the globe have been in the boat (Łódź) trying to learn about sailing the course of the river. It was interesting trying to fish out what is needed. You don't always catch what you want or the catch may be too small. Sometimes it's about strategizing to make a good catch. But at the end of the day, there is a lot to catch from the river and you would have to keep an open net (mind).

The people of Łódź may not be able to catch fish from the Sokolowka river but they can