

Examples on social accountability (2016)

Cherepashyntsi village, Vinnitsya oblast, Ukraine.

Example of public audit

The SDC supported DESPRO project approach for decentralised water supply is based on social mobilisation and strong involvement of the beneficiaries. Social mobilisation addresses the need to build up capacities and processes within communities, in order to solve issues of public demand such as rural water supply.

In this approach, the beneficiaries are extensively involved in all levels of planning, implementation, and operation and maintenance activities.

Cherepashyntsi village is located in the rural area of the Vinnytsya oblast, which is in the central part of Ukraine. Today the village of Cherepashyntsi has 782 households with 1,500 residents. Over the last decade, local wells have been partly dried-up, as their water levels had decreased significantly and continued to do so. The situation was further aggravated by the fact that the aquifer strata lay in granite deposits, significantly complicating the process of drilling new wells and also increasing costs.



At the time of its very start the community project was led by a specially established community based organization (CBO). However, a certain part of the community was not supportive to the CBO, sometimes strongly criticizing the either technical approach, or the CBO operation. The situation analysis conducted by CBO with the support of the village council and DESPRO showed that the possible reason for that was the lack of information. So, as the result an Inventory and Revision sub-

committee was established within the CBO. It partly consisted of the most “concerned” citizens. No CBO management representatives were involved in the sub-committee, except of the accountant (in order to provide access to financial documents). The Inventory and Revision sub-committee was given the right to be present on the construction site, do technical check, revise documents and then, report to the General CBO meeting.

Establishing of the Inventory and Revision sub-committee helped reaching better understanding and cohesion within the community, raised efficiency of the project implementation, and also effectively transformed criticism into public action.

Starting in 2009, up to 2103, the village has succeeded in gradual coverage the whole territory of the village with water supply. The entire network village water supply network exceeds 14 kilometres, providing 100% of households with piped-in connections.

