

## IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE NOVI SANZHARY COMMUNITY: AN OPPORTUNITY NOT WASTED



“Before implementing the waste management project, all neighboring villages would bring their waste to our landfill. The issue was that our old tractor was falling apart and could no longer be used to compact waste. Rubbish was scattered not just around the landfill, but on the road leading to it as well. People were dumping waste everywhere. The wind would take the waste, especially polyethylene, all around the forest and neighboring territories. Waste management was not organized in any way. We had to hire a trailer to bring a bulldozer from Poltava [regional administrative centre] every 3 months, so that we could use the bulldozer for a week. It was very expensive, and the situation had become critical. I wrote stacks of papers addressing anyone from the regional authorities to the President, but no reaction followed. If not for DESPRO, we would never have found a solution,» - says Mykhailo Zaritskyi, starosta (village leader) of Zachepylivka village, Novi Sanzhary district of Poltava region.

Since 2010, DESPRO provides expert and consultative support to improving waste management in partner regions. Before the active phase of the local self-government reform in 2014, DESPRO supported the initiatives of selected communities in improving waste management based on inter-municipal cooperation in Tulchin (Vinnytsya region), and at later stage in 2 other regions of Ukraine, more specifically in Novi Sanzhary (Poltava) and Hlukhiv (Sumy) districts.

DESPRO takes a holistic approach to the “waste problem” by applying the concept of Integrated Solid Waste Management. The waste

management planning is organized as a stepwise process: the results of the first stage are taken as the basis for planning the next stage. As a result of the planning process, an Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy is designed for a given territory. Sustainability and efficiency are the main features of this approach.

To bring waste management to scale, DESPRO makes use of the inter-municipal cooperation principles elaborated under the Law “On cooperation of territorial communities”. Developing joint systems of waste management leads to sustainable and efficient solutions for communities of Ukraine.

In the case of Novi Sanzhary district, the strategy was developed for an inter-municipal waste cluster uniting under one system the town of Novi Sanzhary and 4 neighbouring villages (including Zachepylivka, where the landfill was located). Although the inter-municipal cooperation project was not implemented in full due to financing issues, community amalgamation helped the strategy go to scale: the village of Zachepylivka is now part of the Novi Sanzhary amalgamated community.





«The situation is now better for people too. In the Novi Sanzhary community, vehicles collect waste periodically and on schedule, and people have the opportunity to dispose of waste. So our community now has a concise system of waste collection, transportation and disposal.

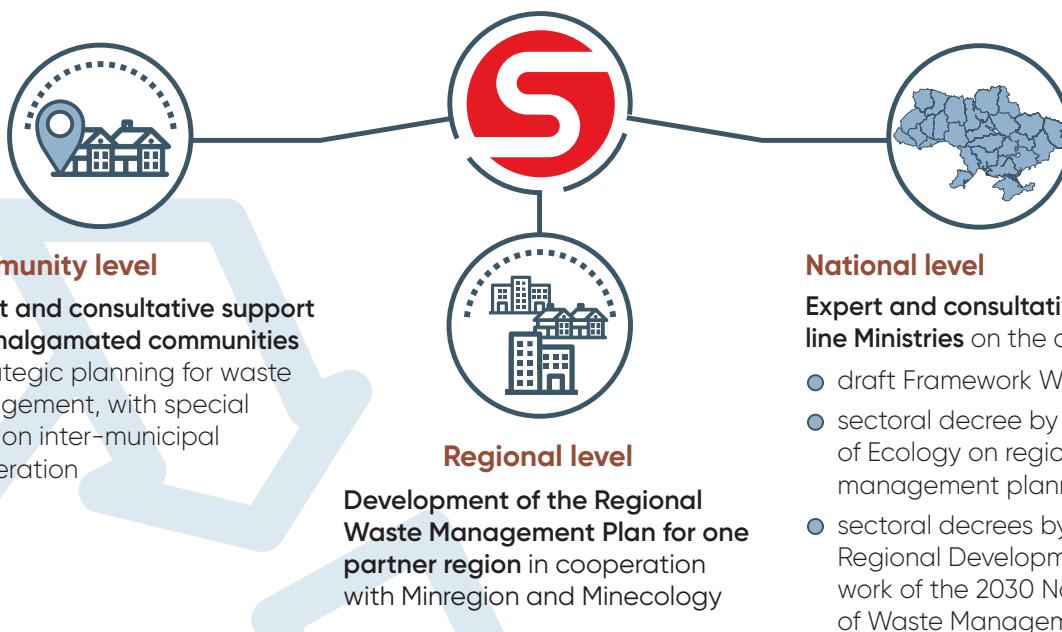
Our landfill has been in operation for 8 years now, and only a third of it is filled. The bulldozer acquired with the support of DESPRO has saved us money and space to compact the waste.

The changes are not only technical. DESPRO created an opportunity for us to work with the

population and educational establishments on the importance of centralized waste collection.

DESPRO also conducted trainings, engaged regional environmental departments and experts, which local self-government can't do. The people, local council members, officials now know the basics of environmental awareness: what to do with plastic, glass etc.; why burning and discarding waste is wrong; waste decomposition rates of various materials; and the negative effects of waste on the environment.» - shares Mykhailo.

**DESPRO** intervention approach for waste management sector in 2017-2020 has **3 levels**:



### Community level

Expert and consultative support for amalgamated communities in strategic planning for waste management, with special focus on inter-municipal cooperation

### Regional level

Development of the Regional Waste Management Plan for one partner region in cooperation with Minregion and Minecology

### National level

Expert and consultative support for line Ministries on the development of:

- draft Framework Waste Law
- sectoral decree by the Ministry of Ecology on regional waste management planning
- sectoral decrees by the Ministry of Regional Development in the framework of the 2030 National Strategy of Waste Management in Ukraine

The capacity development of representatives of local self-governments and communal enterprises, as well as communication on responsible waste disposal for the population, are integral to DESPRO's approach of providing improved waste management solutions to communities. Trained and skilled decision-makers together with environmentally-aware community members can maintain and develop sustainable waste management systems based on their own institutional capability, with no need for extensive international aid intervention.

The Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralization Support Project DESPRO is an international assistance project working in the reform of local self-governance (or "decentralization") in Ukraine. DESPRO is funded by the Swiss Confederation via the Swiss Cooperation Office and implemented by Skat, and has been active since 2007.

<http://despro.org.ua>

