

Safe sewerage for healthy environment - cross-border solutions of Lutsk and Białystok

On November 20, 2024, the Municipal Utility Enterprise "Lutskovodokanal" in Lutsk, Ukraine and Wodociągi Białostockie Sp. z o. o. in Białystok, officially inaugurate the implementation of the Project "Safe sewerage for a healthy environment: cross-border solutions of Lutsk and Białystok" (*Bezpieczna kanalizacja dla zdrowego środowiska: rozwiązania transgraniczne Łucka i Białegostoku*).

The joint venture is implemented under the Interreg NEXT Poland-Ukraine Programme 2021-2027.

This initiative gives Polish support to Ukraine and the partnership between both cities a dimension of concrete actions in the field of municipal management and environmental protection.

The role of the Lead Partner is played by "Lutskovodokanal". Wodociągi Białostockie is the Project Partner. From the total value of the Project equal to EUR 2,629,811.34, the Polish part amounts to EUR 1,321,141.05. Others EUR 1,308,670.29 is the Ukrainian part.

The entire project is co-financed by the European Union at 90 percent, in the amount of EUR 2,366,830.21 (Polish part – EUR 1,189,026.95, Ukrainian part – EUR 1,177,803.26).

Project implementation period: 17/09/2024–16/09/2026.

The Project includes activities aimed at improving sewage management:

1. Modernization – on sections with deteriorated technical condition – of the main sanitary collectors in Lutsk and Białystok, will contribute to the protection of : Styr and Biała rivers, protect groundwater from sewage contamination and prevent the penetration of these waters into the collectors. It will also reduce the release of odors in these places, which will have a positive impact on the quality of air in the surroundings. "Lutskovodokanal" will modernize the sewage collector on a section of almost 2 km near the Styr river, near a densely populated district of the city. In the close vicinity of the Biała river, Wodociągi Białostockie Sp. z o.o. will modernize a 521,5-meter section of the collector, serving over 1/3 of the city area and the village of Klepacze in the Choroszcz commune, using a trenchless method.
2. The purchase of equipment supporting the operation of the sewage network will ensure more effective collection and treatment of sewage. The Lead Partner will purchase a mobile tele-inspection laboratory for observation and diagnostics of the condition of the sewage network. The Project Partner will purchase and install new generation sewage flow meters with data transmission in the modernized collector.
3. Mutual improvement of qualifications of sewage system specialists will consist in organizing:
 - industry scientific and technical conference, together with Technical University, in Białystok;
 - training in monitoring the sewage network for representatives of both partners;
 - study trips of specialists from both partners to water and sewage companies in: Warsaw, Kraków and Wrocław. The organizer of these activities will be Wodociągi Białostockie.
4. Multi-faceted education and promotion will be conducted, to increase the ecological awareness of the residents of Lutsk and Białystok. The Lead Partner will create an educational *Ecospace* in a broad scope of knowledge about water and sewage treatment, and will also prepare a multimedia guide on water treatment. The Project Partner will implement a broad campaign "Sewage is not a garbage bin", including through a thematic outdoor campaign for children and their parents or the production of an educational film and a theatre performance for children.

The cross-border nature of the Polish-Ukrainian Project SafeSewerage ensures close cooperation in the implementation of planned activities, guarantees benefits to both partner enterprises, strengthens cooperation between the partner cities: Lutsk and Białystok and contributes to significant environmental effects on both sides of the border.

