



WATER SUPPLY IN THE HUNGARIAN MUNICIPALITY OF ÓZD IMPROVED WATER QUALITY AND FEWER WATER-MAIN RUPTURES



The control system for water supply in the municipality of Ózd is antiquated, and 700 to 800 households are not connected to the water supply. Switzerland intends to change this situation thanks to a project contribution of CHF 7.17 million. The aim is to ensure that the water supply is of the same standard in the entire municipality, to improve the quality of water and to reduce maintenance costs.

ANTIQUATED WATER-SUPPLY NETWORK

Most of the water supply infrastructure in Hungary is 50 to 60 years old and is in poor condition because of the inferior quality of the pipes. Most of the pipes are made of asbestos cement and cast iron. In addition to a lack of care in the installation work and the insufficient bedding of the pipes, the poor condition of the water supply infrastructure is also due to the geological conditions. The number of pipe bursts is very high, leading, in turn, to high maintenance costs.

RENEWAL OF THE WATER CONTROL SYSTEM AND EXTENSION OF THE WATER SUPPLY NETWORK

In the municipality of Ózd, the water control system is antiquated and is to be completely renewed. The central water supply grid will be expanded and the asbestos pipes are to be replaced by plastic pipes.

- 35 kilometers of pipeline are to be replaced
- 5 kilometers of new pipeline construction will be added.
- A district with 700 to 800 households is connected to the central water supply network.

Thanks to these construction and restoration works, the water quality is to be improved, water pollution will be reduced, and maintenance costs will sink. The inhabitants' quality of life will be boosted, and economic development will be fostered.

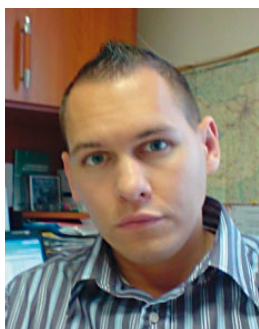
SOME 38,000 INHABITANTS WILL BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

The publically owned company Ózd Water and Canalization Ltd. is responsible for operating the water supply and for waste-water treatment. Thanks to the lower maintenance costs, in the future it will be able to invest more money in the renovation and maintenance of the central water supply network. The municipality of Ózd and its 38,000 inhabitants will be beneficiaries of the project thanks to which a district with 3,500 people – half of them Roma – will be hooked up to the water supply network for the first time.



OTHER PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE WATER SUPPLY IN HUNGARY

Switzerland supports four projects in Hungary whose objective is to enhance the water supply infrastructure in municipalities by contributing a total of CHF 24.9 million. Some 100 kilometers of pipeline are to be renovated and 40 kilometers of new pipeline to be constructed. The least developed areas of Hungary, i.e., the region of northern Hungary and the northern Great Plain are vested with priority. Three of the four projects aimed at improving the water supply are being implemented in these focal regions.



I can summarise the benefits of this project as follows: In the city of Ózd, approximately 800 households are not connected to the water supply network, and thanks to this project their living comfort and sense of well-being will be greatly improved. They will then have a constant supply of clean water, which until now has often not been possible during the winter due to the fact that the water in public wells freezes.

The most important aspect of this project concerns the reconstruction of the existing asbestos pipes. As a service provider I can state that the ongoing deterioration of the outdated pipes gives rise to major technical problems in our everyday lives. The asbestos fibres in the pipes represent a serious health risk, because when work is carried out on the network, asbestos fibres can get into the drinking water – and this also affects me personally as a consumer, of course.

The vast majority of pipe breakages occur during reconstruction, and they frequently lead to interruptions to the water supply in the area for which I am responsible. As a consequence, it is often not possible to supply everyone with water.

Based on the feedback that has been received from residents, I can report that our consumers greatly appreciate the implementation of this project because it will improve supply security as well as the quality of the water. Over the longer term, the operation of the network will become more cost-effective, and this means we may be able to provide water to consumers at lower cost. A modern water supply network is being constructed, and this will help me solve operational problems. The duration of interruptions to the water supply will become shorter, and consumers will therefore suffer less inconvenience.

As a resident of Ózd and in my capacity as chief engineer of the local water supply company, I believe that this project will result in major improvements which will make it possible for me to enjoy a reliable and healthy water supply.

Gábor Csuhan, Chief Engineer, Ózd Waterworks

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

SUBJECT

Drinking water

COUNTRY

Hungary

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In many places in Hungary, the water supply infrastructure is antiquated and bad in quality. The carelessly executed mounting works and the insufficient bedding of the water mains is compounded by the geological conditions. Together they account for the poor condition of the water supply infrastructure. The frequent pipe bursts have led to high maintenance costs.

PURPOSE

Access to the water supply, good water quality, lower maintenance costs, compliance with EU norms

ACTIVITIES

The central water supply network is being extended and to a certain extent, replaced. The control system is being completely renewed.

TARGET GROUP

The municipality of Ózd and its 38,000 inhabitants

COSTS

Total project budget:

CHF 8.43 million

Swiss contribution:

CHF 7.17 million

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Municipality of Ózd in cooperation with Ózd Water and Canalization Ltd.

DURATION

2010 - 2015