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Land-use Management of Estuary areas of Bulgarian Part of Black Sea coast

“Prof.Dr. Assen Zlatarov” University in Burgas is the only state university in Southeast Bulgaria. It was founded on 6th October 1963 as a Higher Chemico-technological institute and later (in 1995) ratified as university with **three faculties** - Faculty of Technical Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Faculty of Social Sciences and three **colleges** - Technical College, Medical College and College of Tourism. Tuition is carried out in 29 accredited Bachelor and over 60 Master programs. The structure of the university includes some special units as: Scientific & Research Center and Central Scientific & Research Lab. The faculties and colleges are located in 4 campuses.

The Department of Water Treatment Technologies is a part of Faculty of Technical Sciences. The scientific and teaching activities in the department are focused on: Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Treatment; Environmental Biotechnology; Membrane Methods and Technology; Water Treatment and Production of Ultra Pure Water for Industrial Use and related water quality parameters monitoring (including BOD, COD, microbiology, micro- and macro-elements analyses etc.). The scientific background, project experience and the traditionally good collaboration with the local authorities and institutions involved in environmental protection are important prerequisites for the successful implementation of the activities included in the program of Integrated Land Use Management Modeling of Black Sea Estuaries.

Main object of study within the project from the Bulgarian side are the wetlands along the estuaries of Veleka and Ropotamo rivers. Although largely these areas are protected as nature reserves there is a significant increase in anthropogenic influence. The review of existing bibliography shown a lack of detailed data for the last years and this could be the main obstacle in order to manage this influence and protect the wetlands. In this regard, the Bulgarian team and Burgas University as partners within this project will focus on: Development and application of monitoring strategies and models in wetland management; establishment of a long-term Regional Training Programme on Wetland Management, where the emphasis would be on technical assistance and transfer of know-ho; Encourage the active participation of local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetland; To involve the private sector in the management of wetlands through participation in wetland management committees; To elaborate international and national quota for the use of biological resources in the Black Sea region using Burgas University capacity.

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