

Representatives of Switzerland Welcome the Remediation Project of Sarkandaugava



On Tuesday, October 28th, representatives of the Ministry of Finance participated in a visit of the delegation of the Swiss Confederation's parliamentarians during which the place of implementation of the Swiss-Latvian cooperation programme's project 'Remediation of Historically Polluted Areas – in Sarkandaugava' was visited. Representatives of Switzerland welcomed the project and the planned contributions to cleaning-up of the territory for a protection of natural resources.

The project implementer – the State Environmental Service – introduced representatives of the delegation with the project, the expected results and a positive impact of the contributions made by the Swiss Confederation. Likewise, the performer of remediation works - an association of persons Intergeo-R – showed the installed technologies.

Historically, the territory of Sarkandaugava has been used for the storage and reloading of petroleum products. In Sarkandaugava, pollution by petroleum products developed in 60-70s of 20th century when it was managed by the Soviet Union armed forces. Currently, a floating layer of petroleum products is more than 1 metre.

Historically polluted territory of Sarkandaugava is one of the most polluted areas in Latvia; therefore, it was chosen for remediation works with the aid of the Swiss-Latvian cooperation programme. Remediation works will be performed on five sites in the territory of the Freeport of Riga, in the area of 8 ha in total.

By renewing and improving the environmental quality of polluted areas, the inflow of pollution into Daugava and further into the Baltic Sea will be reduced as well as threats to people's health will be diminished and the impact of pollution on the areas protected by NATURA 2000 – (the Island) Mangaļu sala and Mīlestības sala.



The project is being implemented in two stages. Currently, remediation works are being performed in the territories of the first stage – SIA [Ltd] OVI, SIA Eko Osta, SIA Woodison and SIAVL Bunkerings – which are planned to be purified from 900 tonnes of petroleum products preventing their inflow into Daugava and the Gulf of Riga. However, in the territory of SIA Ovi Riga, which is included in the second stage of the project, a pilot project has been finished in order to define more precisely the nature and amount of pollution as well as to verify the efficiency of the planned remediation technologies.

It is forecasted that this territory will be purified from approximately 530 tonnes of petroleum products floating above underground water and from more than 8000 tonnes of polluted soil. In order to prevent a possible inflow of the remaining pollution into Sarkandaugava's arm, it is planned to build a piling along its coast.



The total funding of the project is 12.7 million euros from which the Swiss aid amounts to 10.8 million euros and Latvia's co-funding is 1.9 million euros. The project will be implemented until the year 2017.