

GRAMAS NETWORK: THE STARTING POINT FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF GRANADA

**López-Calahorro, M^a Macarena⁽¹⁾; Pereira-Zapata, M^a Almudena⁽²⁾;
Fernández-Caldera, David⁽³⁾**

⁽¹⁾ Consultora Medioambiental, Asistencia Técnica del Grupo de Aguas de la RED GRAMAS. Delegación de Medio Ambiente de la Diputación de Granada C/ Periodista Barrios Talavera nº 1. E-18.014, Granada, España. Tlf: +34 958 24 75 00. (mlcalahorro@hotmail.com)

⁽²⁾ Consultora Medioambiental, Secretaria Técnica y Coordinación de la RED GRAMAS. Delegación de Medio Ambiente de la Diputación de Granada C/ Periodista Barrios Talavera nº 1. E-18.014, Granada, España. Tlf: +34 958 24 75 00. (mapereiraz@hotmail.com)

⁽³⁾ Consultor Medioambiental, Secretaria Técnica y Coordinación de la RED GRAMAS. Delegación de Medio Ambiente de la Diputación de Granada C/ Periodista Barrios Talavera nº 1. E-18.014, Granada, España. Tlf: +34 958 24 75 00. (davidcalderamai@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

The GRAMAS Network created with the purpose of joining the work of all municipalities in the province of Granada concerned about sustainable development and a high degree of concern for the solution of environmental problems. In this way, and by obtaining funding through two projects : TEMA and ECEMED financed by ERDF funds, is this getting to perform environmental actions in municipalities with limited financial and technical resources, as in others with greater resources. For this purpose, this involving both politicians and the technicians of local councils through six working groups: Waste, Energy, Urban Environment, Water, Health and Environmental Health Services, and Environmental Education and Citizenship.

The Water Working Group seeks to improve the management of the Integrated Water Cycle in the province of Granada, for it has established several lines of work. These lines of work want to respond to the needs of municipalities according to their responsibilities. For each of these lines we have adopted various measures to be carried out in the municipalities which are members of the Network and its conclusions should be extrapolated to the rest of the province.

Keyword: sustainable development, management, water, environmental.

Introduction

In June 2009 Granada Municipalities Network for Sustainability (RED GRAMAS) was created. It is composed by 49 municipalities and the Granada Province Council.

The Granada Province Council is the precursor of the project and responsible for the technical secretary of the same. This Network is based on the principles enshrined in the First Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns, held in Denmark on May 27, 1994, from which came the Charter of European Cities towards Sustainability and

Aalborg Charter, which was preceded international Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 where emerged.

In the national and regional government, this Network is based on the principles enshrined in the Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted in November 2007 by the Spain Council of Ministers, as a revision of the European Sustainable Development Strategy as well as in future regional strategy on Sustainability Urbana. At the provincial level, the principles contained in the General Protocol "Local Agreement for Sustainability", adopted in plenary by the Granada Province Council on April 24, 2007 and subsequently by the municipalities of the province. The Network funding has been obtained by two European projects, TEMA and ECEMED, financed with ERDF funds, which have enabled the implementation of the same, and the realization of some programs proposed by the working groups,



Figure 1: GRAMAS Network poster and logos of the funded projects.

The requirements to municipalities for their inclusion in the GRAMAS Network are to approve the Aalborg Commitments 10 and the "Local Agreement for Sustainability" in plenary, have begun the process of Local Agenda 21 in their town, or at least have shown interest in developing it.

Six working groups have been established focusing on the key environmental concerns of the municipalities mentioned above, in which jobs are being developed in order to resolve the problems encountered by municipalities in the province of Granada in the development of its responsibilities.

The Water Working Group seeks to improve the management of the CIA in the Granada province through different work areas

Method

To set the municipalities that belong to each working group were asked to establish some municipal priorities. According to their preference it was established that the maximum number of municipalities that would form the group would be of 16, which should be represented on the various territories that make up the province and in equal proportion municipalities with fewer than 2,000 inhabitants and municipalities with over 10,000 inhabitants. There also be represented different ways of managing existing Urban Water Cycle in the province: direct management by public companies through administrative concessions or through associations. Thus it was possible that the group was representative not only of the territory and population, but also different ways of managing the province of Granada.

In this working group is also represented the Granada Province Council and have invited other actors involved in the process of water management (Agencia Andaluza del Agua). Both the municipalities and the representative of the Granada Province Council have a say in the decisions made within the group.

Once established in the group, four lines of work with their respective programs have been approved:

- AG1: Management of the CIA. Program: Municipal Management.
- AG2: drinking water
 - Program: Training local technicians
 - Programme: Media and channels.
- AG3: enforcement. Program: legal tools.
- AG4: EDUCAGUA. Programme: Awareness and Environmental Awareness

These lines of work were approved at a meeting of all members of the Network on 24 March 2010 in Santa Fe (Granada), now we are working on all of them.

Results and discussion

Currently, the four lines of work have been initiated with the division of tasks between team members, so as to obtain the largest possible number of results and maximize existing resources.

Within the lines of proposals have been developed following that meet the needs and demands not only the municipalities that make up the group but the other municipalities of the province they represent:

- AG1: Management of the urban water cycle. Program: Municipal Management. Proposal for a model of urban water cycle management in the province of Granada, determining the entity provincial or territorial association of management with greater technical and economic feasibility and legal for the management of the CIA, and determining how best to manage it, through technical-economic-legal.

- AG2: drinking water.
 - Program: Training local technicians. Training course on "Health Surveillance Program and Water Quality Consumer in Andalusia", for comply with the legislation requires municipalities to him and many of them are unable to make the lack of trained personnel for its realization.
 - Programme: resources and channels. Drafting of a framework document for the collection of the duties and powers of municipalities with respect to drinking water.
 - Programme: resources and channels. Drafting of a document setting out the guidelines for the conservation and maintenance of confrontations and ditches, and pipes of drinking water in the High Alpujarra.
- AG3: Implementation of the regulations. Program: Legal tools. Control of discharges to the municipal sewerage system, through the drafting of a provincial ordinance to control such discharges and approval by the municipalities, protocols for the control of illegal dumping and meetings with companies.
- AG4: EDUCAGUA. Programme: Awareness and environmental awareness. This program includes a series of actions: Control of household waste to the municipal sewerage system, educational units of the Urban Water Cycle (action being undertaken by the group Environmental Education and Citizenship) and visit the pilot plant of Carrión Cespedes.

Conclusions

The work from the Water Group in the GRAMAS Network is in progress covering all responsibilities areas of municipalities in this matters, giving a clear solution to the problems that all municipalities are presented in the daily management of the Urban Water Cycle . Thus, we have not only established lines of work according to the needs of municipalities, but they have decided how to implement them, and those who are committed to the implementation of actions. This allows, thanks to the heterogeneity of the group, significant results which can be extrapolated to other municipalities, proposing practical solutions that meet the needs that are presented to the municipalities in the process of water management. Also, studies will be performed allowing these municipalities to adapt to the new Water Law of Andalusia, in the most optimal possible progress towards a more sustainable water management in our province.