

Biography

NAME: Diana Iskreva
NATIONALITY: Bulgarian
RESIDENCE: Bulgaria
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EXPERIENCE

2002 – cont. **Executive Director**, Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria

Mrs. Iskreva is responsible for the strategic as well as everyday management of the Earth Forever Foundation – a well established NGO, specialized in sustainable sanitation management at national and international level. She is responsible to supervise project proposal writing, fundraising activities and the implementation of the on-going projects. Diana is mentoring and supporting the project staff of Earth Forever. She lobbies for programs and projects and represents the organization in collaborative activities with partners at all levels. She is the person negotiating organization contracts with local and international donors.

1999 – 2000 **National Coordinator of Vision 21 process, Global Strategy for Water**

2000 – 2007 **Regional Coordinator of WASH for CEE and NIS**

2007– cont. **National WASH Coordinator, Bulgaria**

Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation, Geneva, Switzerland

Mrs. Iskreva was elected a Regional Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe and Newly Independent State of the Collaborative Council for Water and Sanitation at the Global Water Forum in Iguasu, Brazil. She built this WASH region involving new countries in the WASH Campaign.

Mrs. Iskreva has built and coordinates Bulgarian WASH Coalition.

In her role of Regional and National WASH coordinator, Diana has established numerous contacts and collaborates successfully with the leading professionals in the sanitation and hygiene sector from various parts of the world, both in developing and developed countries. She often attends international conferences and fora in various parts of the world to present the sanitation and hygiene issues in the region; to lobby for more attention and support for solving these issues.

Mrs. Iskreva served as an Associated Peace Corps Director/Program Manager Environment Management and Training, US Peace Corps - Sofia, Bulgaria (2000-2002). She managed a number of projects implemented in Bulgaria and Europe by International Secretariat for Water, Quebec, Canada; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, European Secretariat, Freiburg, Germany; Institute for Sustainable Communities, Vermont, USA; Chemonics International, USA; Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest, Hungary; etc. (1992-1998).

EDUCATION

M.Sc., European Management; New Bulgarian University, Institute of European Studies; Sofia, Bulgaria (2001-2011); M.Sc., Environmental Management, Control and Health, Consortium of 7 European Universities; host university: University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria (1993-1994); M.Sc., Agricultural Geoecology; Faculty of Geology and Geography, Geoecology and Environmental Protection Department, Sofia University Kliment Ohridsky, Sofia, Bulgaria, individually tailored program (1990-1991); M.Sc., Geography and Geosystem Management, Faculty of Geology and Geography, Geoecology and Environmental Protection Department, Sofia University Kliment Ohridsky, Sofia, Bulgaria (1983-1989); BSc., Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Sofia University (1986-1989).

RECENT LONG-TERM COURSES AND TRAININGS

EU Water legislation and innovations: principles and practices in EU member countries, e-Learning, STREAMS, Brussels, Belgium (2011-cont.); Efficient management of wastewater, its treatment and reuse, e-Learning, EM Water Hamburg, Germany (2007); Ecological sanitation, e-Learning, UNESCO-IHE, The Netherlands (2007); Ecological alternatives for sanitation, Swedish Environmental Institute, Sweden (2006-2007); Appropriate sanitation for the developing world, Department of Agricultural Engineering, As, Sweden (2006).

HONORS

Mrs. Iskreva serves as a second-mandate member of Compliance Committee on Protocol for Water and Health under the UN Convention on Transboundary Waters and International Lakes (2007-cont.).

Diana Iskreva has been a member of the Board of International Secretariat for Water, Montreal, Canada (2000-cont.); Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation, Geneva, Switzerland (2000-2004); Democracy Network Program of USAID, Sofia, Bulgaria (1998-2001); NGO Group 29, Vienna, Austria (1998-2001); Bulgarian Society for Education and Culture, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria (1997-cont.); NGO Ecoglasnost - Stara Zagora, Bulgaria (1989-1991).

Diana is a member of the International Advisory Board of WECF, Germany (2006-cont.), and a representative for Women for Water Partnership, The Netherlands (2007-cont.).

Manifesto

by **Diana Iskрева**
Nominee for WSSCC Steering Committee, Global Seat

Since 1999, I became part of WSSCC most exciting achievements and most controversial challenges being a national coordinator, regional representative and SC member. Through WSSCC I became a member of the union of professionals, politicians and citizens who dare to declare that sanitation is not a dirty word and work every day of their lives to see that the least privileged in the world get access to safe sanitation and hygiene. A lot was achieved, and enormous work is still to be accomplished.

In October in Mumbai, I was among these 500 sanitation and hygiene professionals who declared their readiness to go ahead by implementing the WSSCC Medium-Term Strategic Plan, 2012-2016. I know, WSSCC is among the most devoted organizations in the world that have the tools and capacity to adequately approach the sanitation issue, and successfully support and empower the poorest to get access to safe sanitation and hygiene services.

My life and experience happen to develop in the way that gave me exposure both to challenges facing developing and developed world, citizens and professionals, NGOs and decision-makers. In recent 22 years, I happen to live and work in the situation of transition – from centralized to market economy, from communist to democratic society, from Soviet block to EU. This constant need to adapt to new political and economic realities made me flexible, but also firm to continue being a decent person and marketable professional; able to listen and sympathize, but also persistent to stand positions and getting goals.

As a professional, I believe in holistic and sustainable solutions that guarantee long-term positive effect and benefit all levels of human society as well as save the environment. I believe in participation of all stakeholders in decision-making; in mainstreaming gender; in transparency and accountability; in empowering and shared responsibility. I believe, in the irreversible right of the future generations to live in a better world.

Since 19 years I have been working in sanitation and hygiene sector. During the recent 5 years, I have worked in the field in Bulgaria and internationally implementing sanitation and hygiene projects that benefit the poor rural communities, schools, women and the marginalized groups. I am also a consultant in sustainable sanitation. I was part of the Think Tank that was charged with achieving safe water and sanitation as a human right. I am serving a second term as the ‘sanitation member’ of the Compliance Committee on Protocol of Water and Health under the UN Water Convention. I write documents and articles on sustainable sanitation. I constantly make presentations at national and international events of all levels. I continue studying. At the moment I follow a 2-year course in water legislation and innovations in EU.

If I am elected to the Steering Committee of WSSCC, I will be speaking there not as a member of this or that nation or group, but as citizen and professional who is devoted and strives to make sanitation and hygiene affordable, accessible, sustainable, and support every human being to implement his/her human right to safe sanitation and hygiene services.

We all have to foster our joint efforts – people living in the South and in the North, in the East and in the West, and bring more efficient, sustainable and affordable approaches, technologies, policies, resources. We have to put all our efforts to solve collectively world sanitation and hygiene issues. Now as the world is shaken by financial crisis, strikes of trade unions, youth protests, etc., we have to learn to continue showing solidarity with the least privileged individuals and groups.

I express my sincere gratitude to these 12 colleagues from WSSCC, most of them current and former members of SC and national WASH coordinators, and all of them – respected professionals from all parts of the world, who countersigned my nomination.



06.12.2011
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Diana Iskрева