


FACTSHEET RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

The municipal Wroclaw subsidy program "Catch the Rain"

Where was it implemented?	
Wroclaw (Lower Silesia), Poland	
Fields of action	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement area 	
Related to measure from the catalogue of measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue and green infrastructure, Absorbent wells 	
Area characterisation	<p>Source: https://bip.um.wroc.pl/arttykul/842/43956/zlap-deszcz-2020</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area type: urban / semi-urban Landscape type: lowland (it's also good for hilly area) 	
Problem	
<p>Past floodings and other consequences of climate change have affected various areas of the city in the past. One reason is an insufficient ability to retain or use large amounts of precipitation.</p>	

Description and aim

As a consequence of heavy rain events (and other unusual weather phenomena) the strategic document Urban Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for Wroclaw city (created in project MPA) and the Good Practice Catalogue (part I and II) were prepared to mitigate the corresponding risks. In addition, the city created a subsidy programme "Catch the Rain". The program allows co-financing of measures for residents to catch the rain in their household or garden. The level of co-financing reaches up to 80 % of the costs for building a rainwater retention solution (the costs of purchasing, constructing and assembling elements necessary for the retention and use of rainwater and snowmelt are included, but limited to 5000 PLN / 250 Euro).

The first subsidy programme ran from 02.08.2019 to 30.09.2019. 250,000 PLN / 62500 Euro was allocated to the programme. 143 applications were submitted, 92 contracts were concluded for the implementation of measures (> 80 above-ground and underground containers, 2 absorbent wells, 1 rain garden).

The second subsidy programme is running from 03.02.2020 to 30.09.2020. 500,000 PLN / 125000 Euro is allocated to this edition. The effects of the programme will be known on completion but it can be stated that there is already a great interest for the programme.

Effect of measure

Prevention and protection by capturing rainwater (including heavy rainfall).

Some solutions contribute to water purification.

Relief of the sewage system.

Increasing the amount of vegetation (green area) in the city has a positive effect on the well-being of residents as well as on the air quality (improving the microclimate) and reducing the phenomenon of the urban heat island.

Description of implementation	
Effect horizon: short term to long-term	Involved stakeholders: residents
Implementation: 02.08.2019 - 30.09.2019 (first edition) 03.02.2020 - 30.09.2020 (second edition)	Initiator / responsible Wroclaw City Hall - Water and Energy Office (Urząd Miejski Wrocławia - Biuro Wody i Energii)
Lessons-learned	
Main success factor: Implementation of 92 solutions in the whole city mainly on private areas(> 80 above-ground and underground containers, 2 absorbent wells, 1 rain garden). The programme implements good practice examples. Through the subsidy program “Catch the Rain”, the city can improve local (small-scale) water retention in private areas of residents in different parts of the city.	Main challenge: Dissemination of this program and its good effects and encouragement of the public.
Synergies / beneficial aspects: This programme is the city's response to climate change. Activities of the municipality aim at following the guidelines contained in the document MPA - Urban Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change. This program is linked to The Good Practice Catalogue (part II).	Conflicts / Constraints: Cost - insufficient amount of funds for the programme (more applications than funding possibilities).
Key message to others starting with a similar task	
“The main task is to repeat this programme in the next few years to give other residents the possibility to take advantage of this programme. This means that the city must provide budget for the programme.”	
Contact	
Biuro Wody i Energii Urzędu Miejskiego Wrocławia e-mail: bwe@um.wroc.pl	



Urząd Miejski Wrocławia, Wydział Środowiska i Rolnictwa (Wrocław City Office, Department of Environment and Agriculture); fot. I.Lejcuś