

FACTSHEET RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Project Climate Change Adaptation Plans in 44 Polish Cities (Urban Adaptation Plans - UAP)

Where was it implemented?

Wrocław, Legnica, Wałbrzych (Lower Silesia), Poland

Fields of action

- Settlement area

Related to measure from the catalogue of measures

- Strategic documents (no 3)

Area characterisation

- **Area type:** urban
- **Landscape type:** Lowland (Wrocław, Legnica), hilly (Wałbrzych)

Problem

Recent extreme weather events and EU guidelines have required the preparation of adaptation plans for large cities.



Source: http://44mpa.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MPA_NET-ENG-20-12.pdf

Description and aim

After the Polish government adopted a “Polish National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2020 with the perspective by 2030” also adaptation plans for urban areas with many inhabitants needed to be prepared. 44 Polish cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants participated in the project in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. The project aimed to adapt the cities to the climate change. The project took place from 12.01.2017 to 12.01.2019. In Lower Silesia the cities of Wrocław, Legnica and Wałbrzych were involved. The main aim was to shape modern urban policies in response to the identified climate risks. IMGW-PIB participated in the implementation of the project. Numerous analyses on the sensitivity, adaptive capacity, vulnerability and resilience were conducted. Also hazards due to climate change as well as the most vulnerable sectors and areas have been identified. The plans and activities for adapting to climate change have been prepared for 44 cities.

In cities located in Lower Silesia the main climatic hazards were: heatwaves, intensive precipitation and storms, urban flooding and windstorms. The proposed adaptation measures are addressed to specific components and specific locations in the city. The measures are classified into information and educational, organizational and technical measures. Specific proposals include e.g. building and developing a green and blue infrastructure system, building a system of solutions to ensure the thermal comfort of the residents, increasing the ratio of biologically active surfaces by reducing or reverting soil sealing, ect. More information about Urban Adaptation Plans (UAP): www.mpa44.pl.

Effect of measure

For the first time in Europe, systematic actions have been taken on this scale to improve resilience to climatic hazards in 44 large cities.

For the first time in Poland, urban hazards relating to climate change have been identified using a uni-form methodology.

In cities the sectors and areas most vulnerable to climate change have been identified.

Plans for adapting to climate change have been prepared for 44 cities.

Description of implementation	
Effect horizon: medium-term to long-term	Involved stakeholders: urban commune (community), city residents and companies (related to transport, water supply, municipal waste, etc.)
Implementation: January 2017 / January 2019	Initiator / responsible the Ministry of the Environment
Lessons-learned	
Main success factor: Urban adaptation plans are strategic documents which reflect municipal policies that aim to cope with natural hazards.	Main challenge: determining the team responsible for implementation; monitoring the implementation of the measures (on going); evaluating implementation results (in the future).
Synergies / beneficial aspects: determining the team responsible for implementation; engaging local communities; identifying a set of measures that are most appropriate for each city.	Conflicts / Constraints: finding (obtaining) financing options for the realization of actions and measures; some measures (activities) have high environmental requirements; low social awareness of adaptation to climate change; low degree of technological advancement of the adaptation measures
Key message to others starting with a similar task	
“The main task is to combine the need to adapt to climate change with the requirements of the city (e.g. urban infrastructure - roads, buildings) and nature (parks, gardens) and to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants.”	
Further information	Contact
http://www.mpa44.pl/ http://44mpa.pl/urban-adaptation-plans/?lang=en	Environment Protection Institute – National Research Institute (leader), Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute, Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas and a consulting and engineering company ARCADIS, Deloitte Polska Barbara.Rajkowska@ios.gov.pl