

## In short

The project aims to restore of a green corridor along river valley, which should function as a local reservoir of wildlife and the area for water retention, including the excess of storm-water . The main goal will be creation of a recreational area which will improve environmental value of the place and increase the quality of life of inhabitants.



Ślepiotka – in urbanized part of catchment. Two of several potential locations for pilot action



## Ślepiotka River

Ślepiotka is 8 km long small affluent of river Klodnica, However Ślepiotka catchment (12 square kilometers) is situated in Katowice, upper and lower parts of catchment area are covered mostly by forests, while just middle part is highly urbanized. (about 60.000 people). Valley slopes are several meters high, so there is no serious flood risk for surrounding areas. Ślepiotka was channelized 30-40 years ago with use of concrete, prior to premeditated urbanization of the whole catchment area and prior to premeditated mining activities. Water was seriously polluted by untreated sanitary sewage from surrounding households and industrial enterprises, but in result of sanitation system extension, sewage is directed to treatment plant situated in other catchment. The river remains under pressure from untreated storm-water and from land management activities.

Currently, there occur some self-restoration processes of water/amphibious ecosystems. Most of the area in Ślepiotka valley is in municipal ownership.

### Aims of project:

The main idea for future management of urbanized (middle) part of the catchment, is restoration of a green corridor along river valley, c.a. 2 km long, which should function as a local reservoir of wildlife and the area for water retention, including the excess of storm-water.

The expectations of local community also include:

- increase of landscape value, improvement of public access
- establishment of some forms of soft recreation.

The pilot illustrates, in the most vulnerable site, possibilities for desired transformation of river corridor.

### Pilot action and investment

Pilot investment, the technical project of which will be elaborated under REURIS implementation, will include:

- river channel modification with use of soil bioengineering methods (natural stone, native plant species) for habitat diversity increase and for establishment of buffer-zone protecting river water from contaminants;
- creation of quasi-natural pond or wetland for increase of retention capacity and for water/amphibious habitat creation;
- making it possible to manage water in sustainable way, including improvements of existing stormwater effluents as well as hydraulic continuity establishment between pond and river channel;
- establishment of stable plant cover with use of native plant species (trees, shrubs);
- educational path construction for public access, educational places for children

The detailed location of investment will be elaborated in process of public planning.



This project is part of



### Expected positive national and regional impacts:

- Pilot action will allow gathering experience for implementation of the WFD for heavy-modified and artificial water bodies in highly-urbanised areas. This is especially important in regard for small rivers, for which sustainable management of water resources is possible only if the whole adjacent area is well-managed.
- Upper Silesia is the main watershed between Poland's largest rivers, Odra & Vistula. It is an area with a concentration of large cities, inhabited by about 4 million people. Successful implementation of the pilot, first within the region's scale, will open the way for revitalisation of other urban river spaces across the region. The scope & effects of the pilot are coherent with the principles of regional authorities, involving activities for restoring local ecological corridors in river valleys. Thus, aside from the abovementioned positive local impact, the pilot will also be of regional significance



One of potential locations for pilot action

### Expected positive local impacts:

- local society involvement in the project;
- new paradigm for urban water management;
- elaboration of local stream and sub-catchment assessment methods for restoring water use value potential;
- introduction of "river corridor" concept into spatial planning&management practices in post-mining urbanised areas;
- enlargement of public open space for leisure/recreation;
- "green axis" reestablishment along river valley;
- reestablishment of water use value (ecological and economic point of view);
- increasing public awareness of urban river spaces issues;
- increase of competitiveness of city (strengthening of business location, attractiveness for tourism, etc.);
- ecological reactivation of river and its waterfront;
- spatial quality improvement (good chemical property of water is just a start-point);
- strengthening capabilities of city authorities for implementation of an integrated approach to urban river spaces revitalization, developing more effective policies and becoming able to design and submit appropriate projects for EU co-financing.



The only revitalized place in Ślepiotka valley



In some places self-restoration processes of riparian plant cover occur

### For further information please contact

Revitalisation of Urban River Spaces (REURIS)

[www.reuris.gig.eu](http://www.reuris.gig.eu)

Revitalisation of Ślepiotka River (pilot project of Katowice)

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