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DELIVERING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS

GOOD PRACTICES FROM 8 EUROPEAN CITIES AND REGIONS

DECA is an Interreg Europe project, co-funded by the European Union, for improving climate change through interregional cooperation between the following partners:

Energy And Climate Agency of Podravje (SI)
City of Ostend (BE)
County Administration Board of Kronoberg (SE)
Lisbon Municipality (PT)
Mazovia Energy Agency (PL)
Province of Treviso (IT)
Roermond Municipality (NL)
Tartu Regional Energy Agency (EE)

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GREEN

Interreg Europe

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WWW.INTERREGEUROPE.EU/DECA

COLLABORATION IS KEY TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHALLENGES AND BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

These presentations highlight good practices and strategies for climate adaptation and urban sustainability, discussed during a peer review meeting in 2024. The focus is on fostering collaboration between the public sector, communities and other stakeholders to address climate challenges effectively.

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Lijnbaanstraat, a green oasis
Ostend, Belgium

A former parking area in the city center was transformed into a cool and green oasis.

A popup garden on location was installed where citizens could give feedback on a maquette and drop ideas in a letterbox. Through co-creation, the unattractive area was redesigned to become a green lung in the heart of the city. Instead of cars and air pollution, people find a breathable and walkable passageway from one busy part of the city center to another.

By request of local residents, the City of Ostend opted for a flowery and varied design of the green islands, giving the space the character of a shared garden. Each of these islands is circumvented by a seating edge. Accompanied by a drinking fountain and a fully accessible toilet, all who pass through this area are invited to rest and connect.

Another function of the Lijnbaanstraat is the collection of surface water in underground basins. In dry spells, water that falls within the area can be used to irrigate plants in the city center.

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Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles Urban Park
Lisbon, Portugal

This is a project about renaturing public space through Nature-based Solutions aimed at reducing peak flow and controlling frequent floods.

Engagement with stakeholders through exhibitions, public debates and an international contest of ideas was essential to build bridges between the public sector and climate change forces.

The result of this transformation is a new continuous green space covering an area of 6 hectares, and an extension of the reclaimed water network for irrigation of this public space in the future.

Key issues addressed:
- Elimination of obsolete spaces, such as a disused market
- Relocation of the public transport hub
- Improvements to traffic circulation at key entry points into the city
- Stretch of watercourse renatured with the planting of riparian vegetation on the banks
- Planting of over a thousand trees
- Creation of recreational areas
- Inclusion of pedestrian paths and a playground
- Integration of a cycling network.

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Properly maintained infrastructure
Selnica ob Dravi, Slovenia

Properly maintained infrastructure ensures resilience to heavy rainfall by addressing key design and maintenance factors such as proper grading, well-placed drainage shafts, and optimised mountain road layouts. Regular maintenance improves safety, efficiency and functionality, reduces long-term repair costs and supports economic growth while improving quality of life and community resilience.

Technical expertise, community insights, and environmental considerations are incorporated in all phases to ensure that infrastructure maintenance is resilient, cost-effective, and sustainable. The plan is based on a thorough analysis of the current infrastructure, taking into account technical, environmental and socio-economic factors.

It is divided into three main sections:
- Identifying the condition of slopes, drainage systems and roads
- Highlighting vulnerabilities to heavy rainfall
- Detailing targeted maintenance and cost-effective improvements.

By minimising disruption and supporting economic growth, this approach ensures reliable access to essential services, builds community resilience and improves quality of life.

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Silea's water management plan
Province of Treviso, Municipality of Silea, Italy

The Municipality of Silea is the associated partner of the Province of Treviso in the DECA project. Its policy instrument is the local water management plan, whose purpose is to conduct a detailed analysis of the minor hydrographic network in order to set the goals and identify the necessary works to mitigate the hydraulic risks in the area.

The plan is the result of an in-depth analysis of the territory, considering administrative, regulatory and programmatic aspects, as well as geomorphological and hydrographic features. It involves the participation of citizens and stakeholders, who are actively informed and who in turn collaborate by carrying out maintenance work on their private properties to preserve the local environment and prevent flooding risks.

The plan is divided into different parts:
- A data collection and reconnaissance part, focusing on research, surveys, and mapping of water collection networks
- An analytical part, identifying the main hydraulic issues linked to meteorological events
- A propositional part, outlining proposed interventions and their related costs.

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Development of the urban village Kvissental
Tartu, Estonia

The development of the urban village of Kvissental reduces the flood risk of the Emajogi River. It involved close cooperation between specialists, the city, and developers from the initial master plan to the detailed planning phase, including a critical analysis of the flooding risks.

Specialised methods, tools and solutions are used for the detailed planning, design and development of the village, with not only horizontal but also vertical planning of the whole area.

Infrastructure works include landscaping, the drainage system and the network of ditches and roads.

Different landscaping solutions are used in the flood risk area:
- Infiltration surfaces: natural green areas are preferred to artificial pavements
- Drainage channels are extremely important
- Technical storm water systems.

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Guidelines to achieve ecological, social and economic sustainability for the built environment
Älmhult Municipality, Sweden

The guidelines are used in contact with private developers to show the municipality's standpoint on sustainability issues. They are also used as a framework for the municipality's own urban development projects.

Objectives:
- To influence private developments to be more sustainable and adapted to climate change through land allocation agreement and implementation agreement
- For "Award for good built environment" to increase interest and understanding of a good built environment.

By using the guidelines, the municipality can involve private stakeholders when developing Älmhult.

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Green-Blue Schoolyards
Roermond, Netherlands

Regular schoolyards have large paved areas, problems with heat and heavy rainfall, child well-being at risk and a negative impact on the neighbourhood.

The Green-Blue Revolution Schoolyards, an initiative by Waterpanel Noord, transform paved schoolyards into green and blue outdoor spaces that contribute to climate adaptation and a healthier living environment. By integrating natural elements such as grass, trees, water features, and rain-resistant solutions, these schoolyards reduce heat stress, increase water retention, and promote biodiversity.

In addition to the physical transformations, the program includes an educational component where pupils, teachers, and parents learn about topics such as water management, climate change, and sustainability. All stakeholders are actively involved in the process. The schoolyard becomes an outdoor classroom where theory and practice come together, actively engaging children with their environment.

The Green Blue Revolution Schoolyards is an organization formed by financial input from 15 municipalities, Water board Limburg and Water supply company Limburg.

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Simulation game "Neighbourhood with climate"
Warsaw, Poland

The simulation game allows residents to address climate adaptation challenges in their neighbourhoods. Players select their neighbourhood within the game, receive a vulnerability report outlining risks like flooding or heatwaves, and use a fixed budget to implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS) such as planting trees, creating rain gardens, or modifying pavements for permeability. The game provides impact assessments (climatic, social, economic) and allows adjustments. After gameplay, selected solutions are implemented in real life, directly enhancing local resilience and quality of life.

By transforming climate risk awareness into tangible, community-driven actions, the game empowers stakeholders to collaboratively build resilient neighbourhoods.

Key elements:
- Players choose their neighbourhood in-game and interact with a detailed vulnerability report
- Solutions include trees, hedgerows, and permeable surfaces
- Impact assessment provided for climatic, hydrological, biodiversity, social, and economic factors
- Workshops include game testing, green walks, and collaborative NbS implementation
- Encourages active participation and informed decision-making by allowing players to correct and refine strategies.

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DECA (Delivering Effective Climate Actions) will test and develop innovative policies and financing to increase investment, reduce costs and accelerate the effectiveness of climate change adaptation in 8 European regions.

THIS BROCHURE SHOWS 8 GOOD PRACTICES ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION FROM THE DECA PARTNERS

If you are interested in visiting or discussing, please let us know of please feel free to reach out.