



THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF URBAN RIVERS

International scientific conference

Katowice experience of increasing general public awareness of river valleys' significance as a component of public spaces' network in the city

Małgorzata Markowska

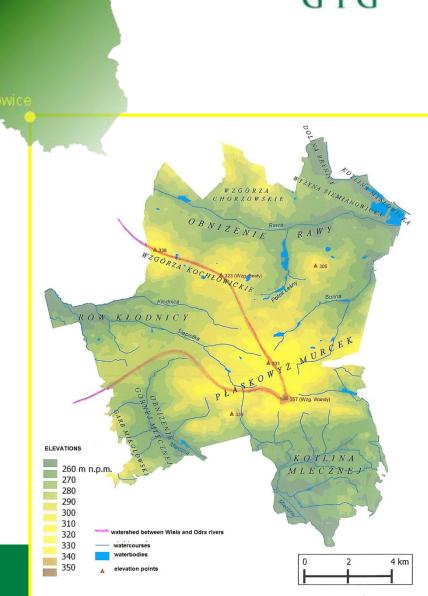
Department of Water Protection Central Mining Institute / Główny Instytut Górnictwa, Katowice, Poland

Brief information of Katowice City



Katowice is a city in Silesia in southern Poland, on the Kłodnica and Rawa rivers (tributaries of the Oder and the Vistula). Katowice is located in the Silesian Highlands, about 50 km on north from the Silesian Beskids (part of the Carpathian Mountains) and about 100 km on south-east from Sudetes Mountains. The population within the city limits is 308 724.

It is the central district of the Metropolitan Association of Upper Silesia, with a population of 2 million. Katowice has been the capital of Silesian Voivodeship since its formation in 1999.



Public awareness of river valleys as public spaces



Changes in last 6 years – most important experiences:



Ślepiotka River revitalization - REURIS Project (2008 – 2012)



"Pure Kłodnica" – voluntary action since 2011



Idea of Rawa River revitalization - 2014



REURIS Project



REURIS (**REvitalisation of Urban RIver Spaces**) has been dedicated to meeting the growing demand for attractive and accessible water-courses in city areas by developing sustainable river revitalisation tools through transnational cooperation. It was one of first attempts in Upper-Silesian conditions to involve local communities at all stages of the project implementation.

The main aim of REURIS project was to implement strategies and activities at reconstruction of natural and cultural resources and management of urban river spaces.

REURIS connected experiences of eight partners from six cities – from Plzeň and Brno (Czech Republic), from Stuttgart and Leipzig (Germany) and from Bydgoszcz and Katowice (Poland).





REURIS Project



The focus of public participation and communication activities laid on:

- Planning of detailed river valley management (developing a planning system for detailed river valley management) using the example of the Ślepiotka valley,
- Combining good knowledge about the river valley (various sources of information) with the opportunity to get to know and take into consideration different outlooks on the management of the area,
- Providing information and promoting public participation in the context of the pilot action and future visions of the river corridor, as well as future scenarios,
- General improvement in cooperation between parties involved in urban river revitalisation in Katowice



Steps of raising public awareness











1

Choice of pilot action site

2

The long-term vision for the corridor of the Ślepiotka valley

3

Long – term scenarios



Public participation strategy







informational meetings with members of the Auxiliary Councils of Ochojec and Ligota districts, with affected people and with locally engaged groups



workshops with the above-mentioned people



informational meetings in local schools



exhibits in local schools that were open for students and interested stakeholders



visits to the project site and guided walks for members of the Auxiliary Councils of Ochojec and Ligota districts, as well as other interested people



public relations (press releases, internet website, etc.)



meetings and workshops with local governmental administrative departments

Revitalisation of Urban River Spaces

Visits to pilot site, guided walks, events...



REURIS























Revitalisation of Urban River Spaces

Lectures, meetings and field visits for students



REURIS























Informational meetings and workshops



REURIS













REURIS

Auxiliary forms used

allowed for the collection and

organisation of detailed information on each of the

projects, necessary for prioritising projects

PARTNERSTWO-DLA-ŚLEPIOTKI-

project chart

Delphi

questionnaire

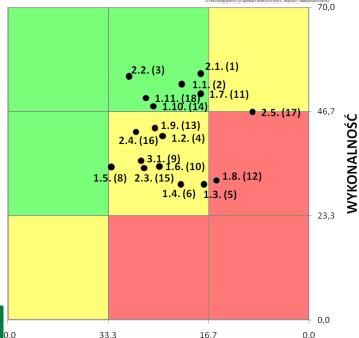
 served the purpose of devising criteria for evaluation of the Ślepiotka valley revitalisation proces & identifying "critical factors" for maintaining the

results of pilot investment

Ślepiotka 2025 matrix a project prioritising tool, patterned on the GE matrix, adjusted to the specific needs and conditions of the Ślepiotka valley







ZAPOTRZEBOWANIE

www.gig.eu



Effects: pilot action in Katowice

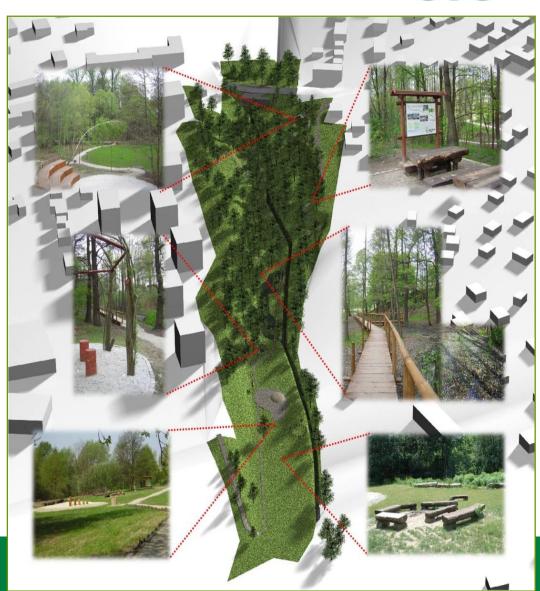


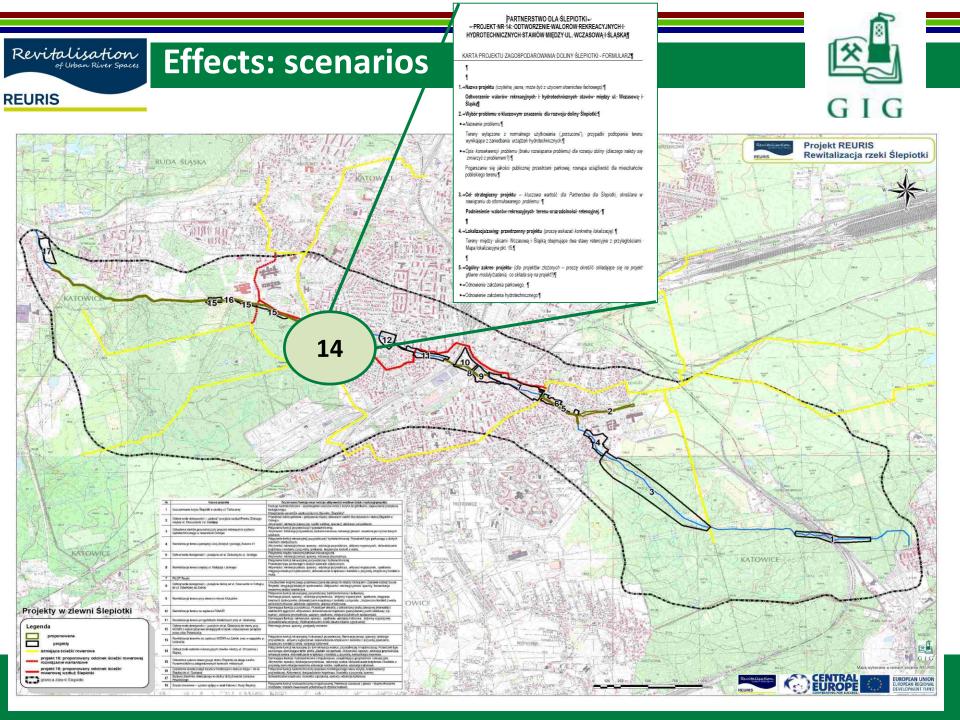
REURIS

Valley of Ślepiotka River (longest tributary to Kłodnica river) – partial renaturisation of river channel and restoration of local ecological corridor, increase of water retention capacity, improvement of stormwater management, restoration of landscape resources.



The main aim of REURIS pilot action in Katowice has been creation of a green recreational area, improving the environmental value of the site and increasing residents' quality of life.







Long term effects



Despite lack of funds and lack of City's activities concerning "Slepiotka corridor", people haven't forgotten about ideas developed. In 2015 few inhabitants prepared – for the needs of participatory budget of Katowice City – prepared the project concerning the reclamation of two ponds in Ślepiotka valley. This idea received most votes within Ligota – Panewniki districts and is now realized.



Liczba głosów: 582

L/2/6/2015

Uporządkowanie oraz rekultywacja terenu 2-ch stawów zlokalizowanych w rejonie ul. Śląska
- ul. Wczasowa

Lokalizacja zadania
Teren zlokalizowany u zbiegu ulic Śląskiej i Wczasowej

Kwota zadania:
50 000,00 zł

Upor	L/2/6/2015 Ligota – Panewniki (50 000,00 PLN) Uporządkowanie oraz rekultywacja terenu 2-ch stawów zlokalizowanych w rejonie ul. Śląska – ul. Wczasowa													
Terer	Teren zlokalizowany u zbiegu ulic Śląskiej i Wczasowej													
Działki nr: 88/53, 4/1, k.m. 89, Obręb: Ligota														
Lp.	Nazwa zadania	I	II	Ш	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
16	Koncepcja projektu													
	Zatwierdzenie koncepcji	'				<u> </u>								
	Uzyskanie decyzji administracyjnych		1											
	Wyłonienie wykonawcy		1	!										
	Podpisanie umowy z Wykonawcą													
	Realizacja inwestycji													
	!	'	,	·										
	1													

"Pure Kłodnica" – annual voluntary action since 2011



- The initiative of Katowice Ligota residents to clean Kłodnica River flowing through the neighborhood and improve water quality for the entire stretch of the river.
- Kłodnica is about 75 km long and a right tributary of the Odra river.
- The idea started from Mr Łukasz Bula and Mr Szczepan Witaszek, who organized the first action in 2011. Now main responsible is Mr Borys Pronobis





"Pure Kłodnica" – annual voluntary action since 2011



 In 2014 the idea and good cooperation was awarded in the competition organized by Polish "Gaja Club" bringing together the various initiatives within the framework of the "Adopt a river" action.



- It was noticed, that during the years more than 300 people participated in cleaning a part of the river and its basin on length of about 1,300 meters. Moreover, organizers established good cooperation between themselves, stakeholdes, City of Katowice and institutions responsible for cleaning of the City.
- According to organizers, in future, along Kłodnica River a string of walks and recreation paths is planned to be built.

Rawa revitalisation idea



- Rawa is the largest right tributary of the Brynica, itself a tributary of the Przemsza, which in turn is a tributary of the Vistula. The entire length of the Rawa is within the Upper Silesian Metropolitan Union. It has its source in Ruda Śląska and crosses the cities of Świętochłowice, Chorzów and Katowice.
- Rawa has lost most of its natural river character, and is now mostly a sewage channel flowing underground.
- The strategic approach to Rawa revitalisation has been discussed in Katowice for many years, especially intensively during the market square reconstruction.
- Most of ideas have been abandoned or have not found a good public perception.





Source: Agencia Gazeta

Rawa revitalisation idea



- One of newest ideas is a plan prepared by Mr Grzegorz Layer, who as part of his thesis at the Faculty of Architecture, Silesian University of Technology, developed the new idea.
- It was discussed during workshops organized, among others, by Scientific Circle antyRAMA, the Society of Polish Town Planners, and Foundation "Repair the City Yourself" – it was the first step to social debate on the river.
- Abandoned due to lack of funds...



Source: Agencja Gazeta



Summary



The awareness of the need and possibility of restoring riparian areas to function as ecological corridors and human-friendly areas is becoming ever more common. Thus, active protection and restoration of such areas is one of the basic kinds of activities for shaping spatial order and sustainable development of cities.

Although general public awareness of river valleys' significance as a component of public spaces' network in the city is increasing, the main problem seems to be lack of continuity of activities, as it discourages citizens from further participation.



Thank you for your attention

Malgorzata Markowska mmarkowska@gig.eu