



# Scheme for the purchase of rainwater management installations

Bratislava, Slovakia

## IN A NUTSHELL

Through its subsidy scheme for the purchase of rainwater management installations, the municipality of Bratislava encourages households to contribute to protecting the city from pluvial floods and property from damage.

### Context

Consistent long-term monitoring of air temperatures and other climatic variables in Bratislava have shown an increasing variability in air humidity. After recurrent floods of the River Danube in the twentieth century, the city has built large-scale and mobile infrastructure and is now protected against 1,000 and 100-year floods, the number of years here referring to the projected frequency of such floods occurring. However, intense rainfall is still impacting the city and requires adaptive responses.

### The subsidy scheme

One of the most immediate solutions to make the city more resilient against intense rainfalls is to implement measures of increasing water retention. This can be through green infrastructure which makes soils more permeable, or through grey infrastructure which contains and/or channels surplus water. While municipalities can do this in public spaces, they are often restricted when it comes to private properties.

In order to overcome this barrier, the city of Bratislava created a subsidy for sustainable water management installations in 2016: building water reservoirs, rainwater gardens, small green roofs, adjustment of pavements, use of permeable materials, etc. Only private organisations and households are eligible.

The subsidy is financed from the municipal budget of the city of Bratislava. The amount of the total allocation was €50,000 in 2016 and was reconducted in 2017 with a total of €40,000. This sum is to be distributed among approximately 40 to 50 applicants. The subsidy always covers 50% of total costs of the installations, up to a maximum amount of €1,000 per application. In addition to the scheme, applicants also receive consultancy on their project's implementation and dissemination provided by the city of Bratislava.



A rainwater harvesting tank before being buried in the soil

## BRATISLAVA



Population:  
422,932

Area:  
367,584 km<sup>2</sup>

Signatory  
to the Covenant  
of Mayors since:  
2012

CO<sub>2</sub> emission  
reduction target:  
-20% by 2020  
compared to  
2005 levels

## Management of the scheme

The subsidy system has been created as a follow-up to the initiative 'Bratislava is preparing for climate change – the pilot application of measures in the field of sustainable rainwater management in urban areas', a large scale (€3.3 million) project 85% funded by EEA grants.

The subsidy applications are assessed by the Steering Committee of the subsidy scheme, consisting of the Vice Mayor, Office of the Chief Architect, the Department of Strategies and Projects and the Department of Environment.

In 2016 the city received 16 applications, out of which 11 were eligible, and 6 were able to complete and administer their project successfully. Most of them used the subsidy for purchasing and installing rain water catchment tanks, creating rain gardens, replacing impermeable surfaces with permeable materials or installing green roofs.

## Next steps and lessons learned

Although this measure is small-scale and has not yet received a full uptake by Bratislavan inhabitants, it gives a good example of how to achieve results at a relatively low cost and is quite easily replicable. The advice given by the city of Bratislava is to make sure to adjust the volume of the subsidy with regard to the average cost of the measure. If the amount of the subsidy is too low, the users might not be motivated to apply.

In Bratislava, the subsidy systems are planned to continue until 2020.

### KEY FIGURES

Project duration: 2016-2017

€1,000: amount of the subsidy

16 applications received in 2016



### FINANCING THE PROJECT

- + **Financing source(s):**  
Municipal budget
- + **Total amount:**  
€50,000 in 2016, €40,000 in 2017
- + **Return on investment:**  
Not calculated (although could be calculated through avoided insurance costs in the case of natural disaster)

### USEFUL LINKS

- ▶ Covenant of Mayors profile of Bratislava: <http://bit.ly/2Ckm4AZ>
- ▶ More on the Bratislava is adapting to climate change EEA funded project (2014-2017): <http://bit.ly/2pNW4Hh>
- ▶ Climate-ADAPT - Bratislava profile: <http://bit.ly/2xe77uV>
- ▶ Official website for applications: <http://bit.ly/2xudg8j>



### CONTACT

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