

Poland

Technical Assistance

A technical assistance funded project to promote cooperation and networking between stakeholders for effective water management.

Summary

The project used technical assistance funds from the Polish Rural Development Programme to initiate cooperation and create a network of contacts between rural communities and institutions in the field of water management, with particular emphasis on agriculture. The project organised



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a series of meetings and delivered training for the integration of stakeholders, who would jointly contribute to improving water management at district level and take up actions for small and medium level water retention.

Location

Minikowo

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

M20 – Technical assistance

Measure

M20 – Technical assistance

Funding

Total budget 61 283.58 (EUR)
EAFRD 38 994.74 (EUR)
National/Regional 22 288.84 (EUR)

Project duration

2021 – 2021

Project promoter

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Project Results

10 Local Water Partnerships were established and 10 District Water Plans developed.

The projects and tasks implemented by Local Water Partnerships will have an impact on the restoration, protection and strengthening of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry, as well as supporting resource efficiency and resilience to climate change.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Water partnerships are not only about water management; they are also a commitment to shared decision-making and the joint undertaking of necessary investments.

Context

In Poland, the annual levels of rainfall are often insufficient. It is therefore important for the agricultural sector to adopt practices that optimise water consumption by enabling water collection in periods of excess (rainstorms, thaws) and its use in periods of shortage. Water resource management is funded through a variety of public means, reflecting the fragmented actions at central, regional, and local levels. It was therefore necessary to integrate all the stakeholders of a district (powiat) in a collective search for solutions and the joint implementation of projects related to rational water management in situations of excess water, water shortage, and water quality.

Establishing Local Water Partnerships (LWP) specific to a given area can address many years of neglect or the persisting inadequacies in organisation, decision-making and competence, especially in the field of small-scale retention – which in the first-place concerns agricultural areas and those adjacent to them (forests, wetlands, ponds, small reservoirs, etc.).

Objectives

The project aimed at initiating cooperation and creating a network of contacts between rural communities and institutions in the field of water management, with particular emphasis on agriculture.

Activities

The project, funded under the technical assistance measure of the Polish Rural Development Plan, focused on developing mutual understanding of the scopes of actions and needs related to water management of the members of LWPs. These included: supporting the mapping and diagnosis of the current water resource management needs of agriculture and the rural residents of a given district; analysis of the problems and potential solutions; dissemination of good practices, and; organisation of promotional and educational activities among residents.

Meetings and gatherings formed an important part of the project activities, amongst them were:

a programme of training meetings for stakeholders in ten districts; a series of physical and online networking meetings between the local communities and water management-related institutions; and further physical meetings held to continue the activities of LPW that had already been established.

Main results

Local Water Partnerships were established in 10 districts - Aleksandrowski, Brodnicki, Bydgoszcz, Chełmno, Grudziądzki, Inowrocław, Radziejowski, Toruń, Włocławski, Żniński. 10 District Water Plans were developed; each including a list of investments to be made and specific activities to be undertaken over the period 2022-2030.

At the end-of-project conference, a decision was made to create a LPW agreement at provincial level, the effect of which was the appointment of a Provincial Council for Water Partnerships at the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Regional Governorship on 12 January 2022.

The Local Water Partnership project facilitated the transfer of knowledge and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas, and promoted risk management in agriculture. The projects and tasks implemented by Local Water Partnerships will have an impact on the restoration, protection and strengthening of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry, as well as supporting resource efficiency and resilience to climate change.

Key lessons

Water partnerships are not only about water management; they are also a commitment to shared decision-making and the joint undertaking of necessary investments. The process of creating and implementing successful LWPs in individual districts resulted from an openness to innovation and the possibility of active participation in the process.

LWPs also play a vital role in managing formal regulatory requirements, something that individual users cannot effectively do.

Additional sources of information

www.kpodr.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Broszura-Lokalne-Partnerstwa-Wodne-LPW-w-Woj.-Kujawsko-Pomorskim.pdf



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