



MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

***“Water, landscape and citizenship
in the face of global change”
presentation by Slovak Republic***

***22nd Council of Europe meeting of the workshops for the
implementation of the European Landscape Convention***

*Seville, Spain
14 – 15 March 2019*

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for water policy in the Slovak Republic. Within the Ministry of the Environment, the Water Section has the main competence in this area.

Part of the water policy, by its competences, is also the Directorate for Nature, Biodiversity and Landscape Protection, particularly in terms of wetland management (Ramsar Convention) and riparian vegetation around watercourses.

The Slovak Environment Agency is also involved in the dissemination of water policy education, training and publishing various professional and promotional materials.

The Slovak Republic considers water policy to be very important. In Slovakia there are many projects concerning flood control, water retention in the country and so on, and many documents deal with water policy.

Apart from state organisations, many non-governmental organisations are also dealing with the topic of water. Unfortunately, it is not possible to present all of them at this meeting.

I will focus on an important publication on water policy in the Slovak Republic and the Municipality Restoration Programme.

The publication I recommend to you is:

“Orientation, principles and priorities of the Slovak Republic Water Management Policy, by 2027”

www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-vod/orientacia-zasady-priority-vodohosp-politiky-sr-do-r-2027.pdf

The Slovak Republic water management policy is a set of principles, priorities and instruments for the identification of effective measures, the correct application of which will lead to the achievement of environmental objectives for ensuring the protection of water and its sustainable use by 2021, or by 2027.

Currently, the most important challenges of water management in the Slovak Republic include: the prevention and reduction of water pollution; enhancement of water efficiency; increased resistance of water management to climatic and meteorological phenomena, improving the management by entities involved in water resource management, better and environmentally-sound land management, in particular improving the practices in forest management on agricultural land, and in the country in general.

Solving these problems is only possible with an integrated approach when adopting measures in the field of water resource management and its protection, covering the entire spectrum of policies in relation to the issues of water, energy and industry, agriculture, transport, waste management, regional development, spatial planning, tourism, adapting to climate change etc., both at a horizontal and vertical level.

The Municipality Restoration Programme

is a successful rural development tool in developed European countries and its main objective is to keep people in the country: the Programme has been operating since 1998.

The aim of the programme is to create economic, organisational and professional preconditions for supporting rural communities to strive for the harmonious development of a healthy environment, to preserve the natural and cultural values of the rural landscape and to develop environmental economic activities with an emphasis on identity and specifics.

Administrative management: The Slovak Environment Agency (counselling, methodological documentation, monitoring of subsidies, promotion, education, education, international co-operation)

Financial Security: The Slovak Environmental Fund

In this programme there are three supported areas:

1. the quality of the rural environment;
2. green infrastructure and adaptation measures to mitigate climate change;
3. environmental education, education and enlightenment.

For our topic “water” the most important activities are in point 2.

- Activities aimed at building the elements of the green infrastructure outside the built-up area;
- Activities aimed at building the elements of the green infrastructure in built-up areas, including the building of elements of small architecture reflecting the character of the rural landscape - Protection of the landscape's distinctive appearance;
- Monitoring and destruction of invasive plant species;
- Climate change mitigation activities;
- Exchange and construction of water-permeable public areas with a combination of planting in the public greenery.

Several examples of successful projects from past years:

***Municipality Tužina,
district of Prievidza***

***Flood channel system – flood control
(2015)***



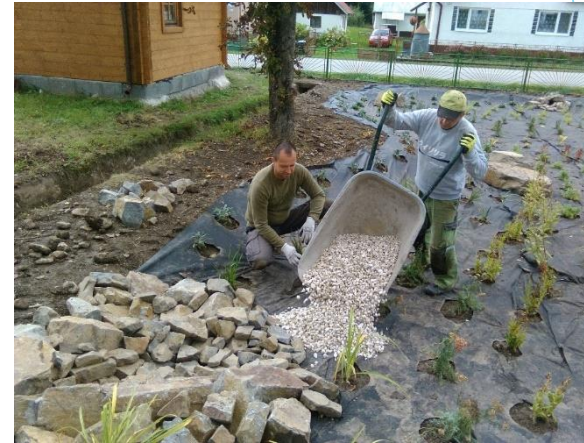
Municipality Margecany district Gelnica

*Use the water for public
greenery (2017)*



Municipality Kolbasov okres Snina

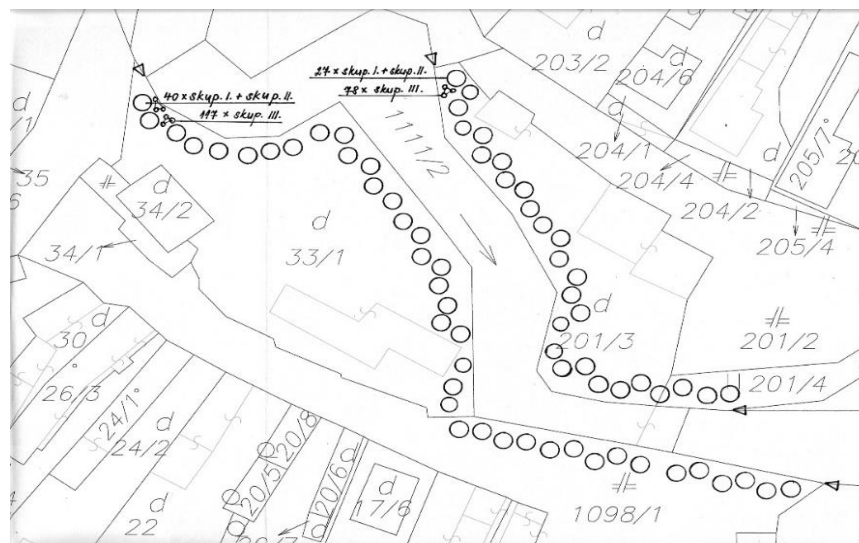
Rain garden in Municipality Kolbasov (2017)



Tento projekt bol podporený z Programu obnovy dediny
DAŽDOVÁ ZÁHRADA
PROGRAM
OBNOVY DEDINY

Municipality Vítkovce District Obec Spišská Nová Ves

Realisation of flood and protective
vegetation on the river bank
Lodina in the centre (2014)



Publication: “Small steps to adaptation”

This is a publication for subsidy applicants produced by the Municipality Restoration Programme (Slovak Environment Agency 2017)

Selected adaptation measures respond to climate change (especially weather extremes); "water excess" and "water shortage" and respect the articles of the European Landscape Convention.



Thank you for your attention

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And team of colleagues from the Slovak Environment Agency