



In short

The international project **REvitalisation of Urban River Spaces (REURIS)** has been accepted by EU authorities. The project will be funded by program Interreg IV Central Europe. The project focuses on theoretical aspects of revitalisation such as implementation methods, financing strategies, ecological benefits, social and economical welfare as well as on the realisation of an test site. Test site in Stuttgart will be the revitalisation of river Feuerbach nearby Zazenhausen.

Please also visit the project at: www.reuris.gig.eu



Abandoned sport field in the valley of river Feuerbach nearby Stuttgart, district Zazenhausen



Paved river banks and detention ponds of river Feuerbach

This project is part of



Opening Conference in Katowice

From February 25th to February 26th opening conference of REURIS will take place in Katowice, Poland. REURIS is an international project funded by Interreg IV Central Europe. Project partners are cities and institutions in Katowice and Bydgoszcz (Poland), Brno and Plzen (Czech Republik), Leipzig and Stuttgart. Lead Partner is the central mining institute in Katowice.

REURIS focuses on the protection, restoration and management of urban river spaces. This is one of the basic activities for shaping spatial order and sustainable development of cities situated along rivers.

The issue of urban river space management is the more complicated because revitalisation of such places needs solutions for complex environmental and socio-economic problems. Regardless of the specificity of a given city and river, the strategic approach to solving these tasks is to create a common set of methods and procedures for coordinated work of multidisciplinary teams as well as effective social involvement. The aim of REURIS is to create such tools, test them in practice and also assess their effects. It is believed that the legacy of REURIS will contribute to EU principle of sustainable development by showing ways to tackle social, economic, political and ecological issues, thus increasing the quality of human life.

Researchers and practitioners from Plzeň and Brno (Czech Republic), from Stuttgart and Leipzig (Germany) and from Bydgoszcz and Katowice (Poland) now work on these issues of sustainable urban river areas management.

Scientific aspects and background:

Especially in high densely populated and industrialized areas revitalization of urban river areas contributes to a high environmental quality as well as to a high standard of quality of life. The condition of groundwater, water, soil, biodiversity and local climate may be improved by river revitalization projects. Furthermore, revitalization projects lead to an improvement of landscape sceneries, possibilities for recreation, experience of nature and may create important green axes including cycling ways and footpaths. In most of the european towns located in river valleys exist plans for river revitalization. However, there is apparently not yet a definitive solution to the numerous fields of conflict between the demands of the industry, settlements and mobility on the one side, and the requirements of flood protection, recreation and ecological revitalisation of the riverfronts on the other. In this context a new approach to spatial planning in urban river valley, including "river corridor" establishment is needed as well as new approaches to implementation strategies and financing. New approaches should work out ecological advantage as well as social and economical welfare of river revitalization. Thus the theoretical aspects of the international project focus on implementation methods, mechanisms and procedures for increasing public awareness and involvement, economic and non economic benefits of revitalized urban river spaces and the transfer of knowledge and experience with regard to consensus skills.



The Valley of River Feuerbach

Since the beginning of the 18th century, in the valley of river Feuerbach extensive zones with manufactures, small trade and housing areas have been established. Tanneries and dyeing factories produced a great amount of waste water and the River Feuerbach was misused as sewage system.

Today, valley of river Feuerbach is an important section in the urban and regional system of green corridors and green axes. The course of the river is 15 km long (80% tubed or with paved river bed and paved river banks) and its catchment (35 squarekilometers) is covered by housing and industrial zones (60%), woods and forests (20%), grassland and arable land (20%). Between district Feuerbach and the river mouth nearby Mühlhausen (middle course and lower course of the river), river Feuerbach is tubed and completely regulated. Nevertheless, the riverslopes are partly determined by naturally composed woods and specie-rich grassland inhabited by endangered species of plants and animals. Parts of the slopes are national preserved areas or protected landscapes. Thus, the valley of river Feuerbach links different areas of high importance for nature protection on local and regional level. Additionally, due to the location nearby densely populated and highly urbanized districts (Feuerbach, Zazenhausen, Mühlhausen, Rot, Freiberg), the valley of river Feuerbach is an important area for local recreation (cycling, jogging, walking, strolling).

Since the improvement of the waste water treatment will provide clean water in river Feuerbach, the municipality of Stuttgart planned to revitalise the river step by step. In district Mühlhausen, first small sections of revitalization were already realised. The overall objective of landscape planning in the valley is to strengthen ecological functions (soil, water, local climate, plants, animals, biodiversity), to improve the landscape scenery and to improve footways and cycle ways.

One of the most important sections of river Feuerbach between Feuerbach and Mühlhausen (middle course of the river) is still characterised by concrete tubes and paved detention ponds. The valley floor is characterised by brownfields (abandoned buildings, parking places and sport fields) and intense agricultural utilization.

In detail, the ecological aims of the project are:

- Reestablishment of natural river sides
- Creation of aquatical and semiaquatical habitats
- Reestablishment of the passability for fishes and other animals
- Improvement of biodiversity
- Development of retention areas for better flood protection
- Realization of additional floodplains
- Strengthening the network of habitats along the river valley

Additionally, cycle ways and footpaths are planned in accordance with a better visitors direction. Thus, the project will strengthen the ecological functions and landscape scenery, provide improved flood protection, create new green spaces and will complete the system of green axes in the urban town planning and regional green-corridor system. It is foreseen to implement cooperative planning processes with involvement of all local stakeholders.



No flood retention possible



Paved river bed besides the sport field



Historical situation

**For further
information please
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Revitalisation of Urban
River Spaces (REURIS)
www.reuris.gig.eu

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