



EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional
Development Fund

Senate Department
for Economics, Energy
and Public Enterprises

BERLIN



Europe makes Berlin – fit for the future

innovative | climate-conscious | integrative | sustainable

In order to promote joint development, the EU Regional Fund (ERDF) supports regions across the EU. Berlin, its companies and people also benefit from EU funding policy. By 2027, EUR 680 million will be allocated to the Berlin ERDF programme, which, together with the necessary national co-financing, will grow to around EUR 1.7 billion.

These funds are used specifically to promote sustainable growth, strengthen future-oriented industries and further expand our city as a hotspot for highly innovative startups. With more than a third of the budget, climate protection and energy efficiency are stronger than ever in the ERDF programme. An additional focus lies on implementing measures to develop disadvantaged urban areas.

Exciting ERDF projects can be discovered everywhere in the city!

Piping walls become ecological islands

Many waterways in Berlin are heavily developed and secured by vertical steel piping walls. These no longer offer space for animals and plants to settle or access the shoreline. Moreover, the walls tend to heat up significantly during the summer, which is detrimental to the urban climate. This is where the project “Vertical Wetlands” of the Leibniz Institute for Water Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) comes in. Newly developed modules, so-called “Vertical Wetlands”, are mounted on the steel piping walls to create habitats for fauna and flora. These modules provide space for the settlement of plants, thereby creating a conducive environment for the growth and survival of various species. The idea of greening steel piping walls with such modules was developed by the research network “Urban Waters”, a network of stakeholders from research, administration, and business who collaborate to explore the potential of water bodies in cities. This planting system is particularly suitable for heavily developed and regulated waterways where other restoration measures may not be feasible. The project aims at protecting aquatic biodiversity. The shading of the steel piping walls has a significant side effect of reducing heat dissipation into the water.

“This issue highlights the importance of ecological islands, the severe impact on our urban waters, and of the ample room for ecological improvements.”

Rosanna Wiebe, project coordinator “Vertical Wetlands”

The Berlin Program for Sustainable Development (BENE), financially supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), aims to reduce CO₂ emissions. It provides funding for the technical development of the planting modules, their structural implementation, and testing until they are ready for series production.



Pile wall with planted modules (model)

A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY

The project aims to develop planting modules which meet the specific requirements for attaching them to waterways, and to make a positive contribution to biodiversity within the limited space available. In addition, the ecological impact of the planting modules is being assessed, and the cooling effect on the sheet walls is being measured.

THE ERDF PROMOTES THE CREATION OF ECOLOGICAL ISLANDS

If green pile walls have a positive effect on water ecology and microclimate, they could become a good example in many places of the city. The project is already raising awareness that urban waters are not only important for clean water, but also for promoting ecological diversity.

THE ERDF IN ACTION IN BERLIN

All project participants have been dealing with the topic of water and their ecological status for many years. The current project aims to show that planted piping walls have a positive impact on both the waters and their ecological system, as well as for birds, fish, insects and water mammals. And this, in turn, is invaluable for the local recreation of the Berliners.

The ERDF makes Berlin fit for the future by

- preserving ecological diversity in heavily built-in urban waters.
- promoting research and development of innovative urban water management.
- setting an example in the field of urban ecology and inviting urban residents to engage in recreation.

FUNDING

Funding Priority:
Reduction of CO₂ emissions

Funding Instrument:
Berlin Programme for Sustainable Development (BENE)

Funding Amount:
EUR 292.900, of which 50 % ERDF

CONTACT

Senate Department for Environment,
Mobility, Consumer and Climate
Protection

Bärbel Glässel
E-mail:
Baerbel.Glaessel@SenUMVK.berlin.de

Leibniz Institute for Water Ecology and
Inland Fisheries (IGB) at the Forschungs-
verbund Berlin e. V.
Müggelseedamm 310, 12587 Berlin

Rosanna Wiebe
E-mail: rosanna.wiebe@igb-berlin.de

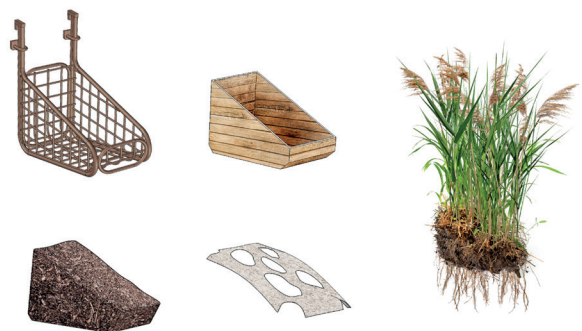
Website:
www.urban-waters.org/de/vertical-wetlands

Photo credit:
Senate Department for Economics,
Energy and Public Enterprises
Envato Elements

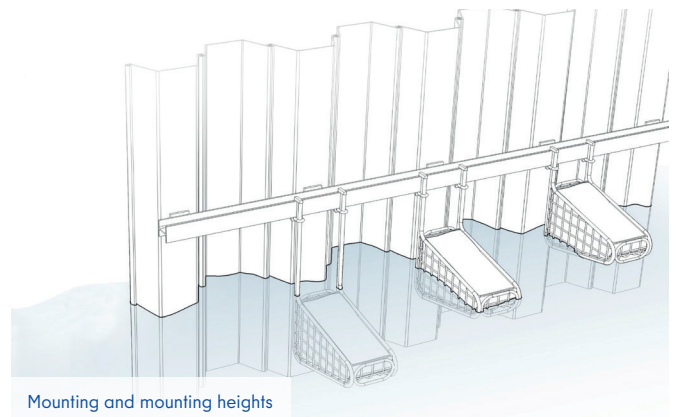
Editorial and design:
ariadne an der spree GmbH



Canal bank at the Cathedral of Berlin



Technical design of the modules



Mounting and mounting heights



Replacement and stepping stone habitats