



Urban rainwater harvesting from niche to mainstream: challenges and opportunities for planning

Conventional urban water management approaches are struggling to meet the emerging challenges required for sustainability. New discourses on urban water management emphasize the need for a transformative change by moving to a system that manages a diversity of water sources and scales of infrastructure, through an integrative planning approach. UrbanRain examines the opportunities and challenges regarding the planning for the up-scaling and expansion of rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems as socio-technical devices in order to enhance water management sustainability in urban areas of Europe; although, it is expected that its lessons and recommendations will have a wider, global impact.



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The project promises high socio-economic value by:

- Increasing the capacity to manage urban water resources and water use efficiency;
- Reducing costs for wastewater treatment and disposal, and creating opportunities for low-cost maintenance of green spaces, gardens, etc.;
- Opening up for innovative business potential over technical design, and competitiveness over costs of RWH systems;
- Promoting learning on innovative forms of RWH between cities/communities; and
- Building a reflexive governance capacity for adaption to climate change, management of flood/drought occurrences, and ecological sustainability

| Project Identity | |
|-----------------------|---|
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| Consortium | Prof. Bo Olofsson, The Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden); Prof. Esteban Castro, Newcastle University (UK); Prof. David Sauri, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain), and Dr. Timothy Moss, Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (Germany). |
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