

Policy recommendations

for implementing the integrated stormwater
management in the Baltic Sea Region

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PLATFORM
BSR WATER

 **Interreg**
Baltic Sea Region

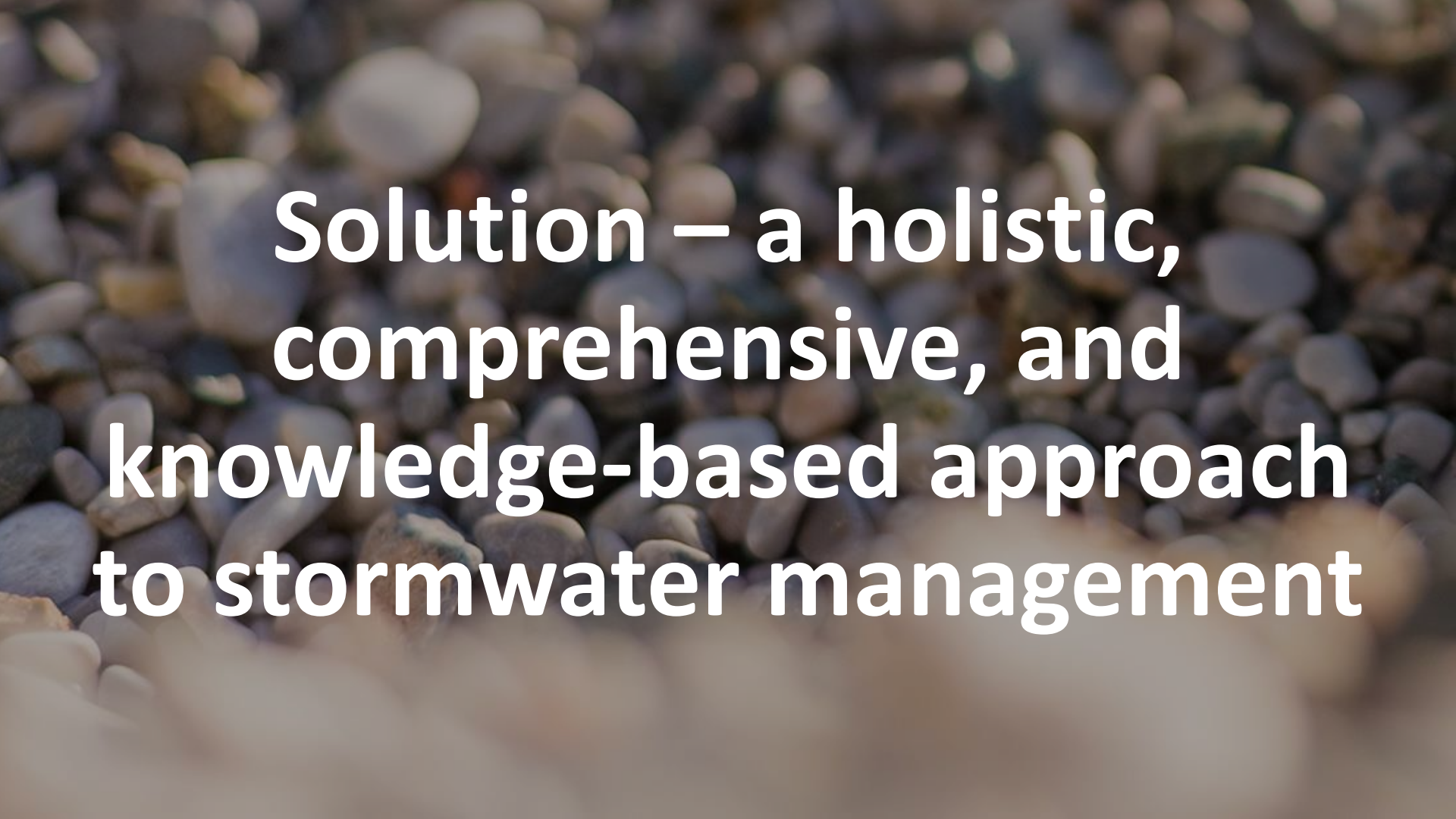

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

A close-up photograph of a corrugated metal roof during a heavy rain. Water is streaming down the ridges of the roof. In the background, there are blurred green trees and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**The Baltic Sea Region is
facing more frequent and
heavier rainfalls**



**... managing stormwater
runoff and quality is a
growing challenge for any
city in the Baltic Sea Region**



**Solution – a holistic,
comprehensive, and
knowledge-based approach
to stormwater management**

BSR WATER

Platform on
Integrated Water
Cooperation



Duration:
1 October 2018 to
30 September 2021

10

Partners



19

Associated partners



Funding:
Interreg BSR
Programme
2014–2020



Budget:
EUR 1,1 million

9

Countries
from Baltic
Sea Region



www.bsrwater.eu

BSR WATER Contributing Project – iWater



Read more:
[iWater project](#)

New Approach to Stormwater Management



Integrated: alternative solutions combined, stakeholders working together
Tailored: “case-by-case” multidisciplinary solutions

Integrated Stormwater Management

The Integrated Stormwater Management (ISWM) is a **comprehensive approach to stormwater management**:

- Instead of a narrow focus on a single problem, the ISWM undertakes a **holistic stormwater management approach**: studying the characteristics of specific sites and areas, understanding the relevant impacts, and tailoring a comprehensive array of tools to individual situations
- Success requires **the integration of the ISWM into the urban development** processes of the city **at all levels**, from urban planning to operation and maintenance

Integrated Stormwater Management

With an ISWM system a city can:

- achieve its goals of **water quality protection** and **flood mitigation**
- design for not just the worst-case scenario, but also for average and minimal events to **minimize the impact of stormwater** on neighbouring lands
- determine what solutions and infrastructure together with their interconnections are required to **manage different stormwater runoff**
- ensure that **stormwater is treated as a resource** that enhances our cities

Read more: [iWater project](#)

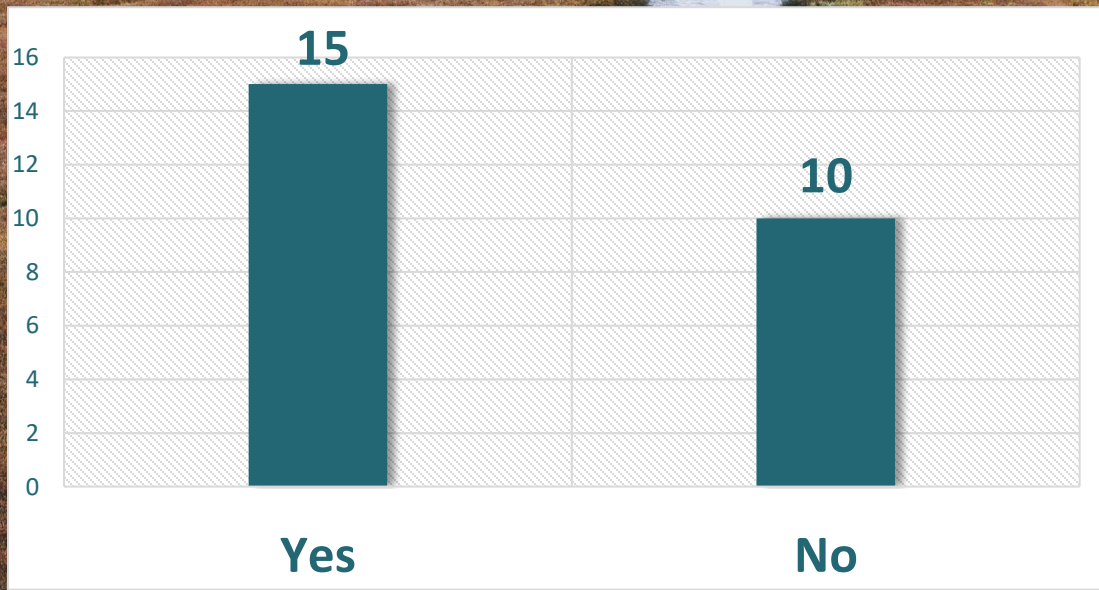
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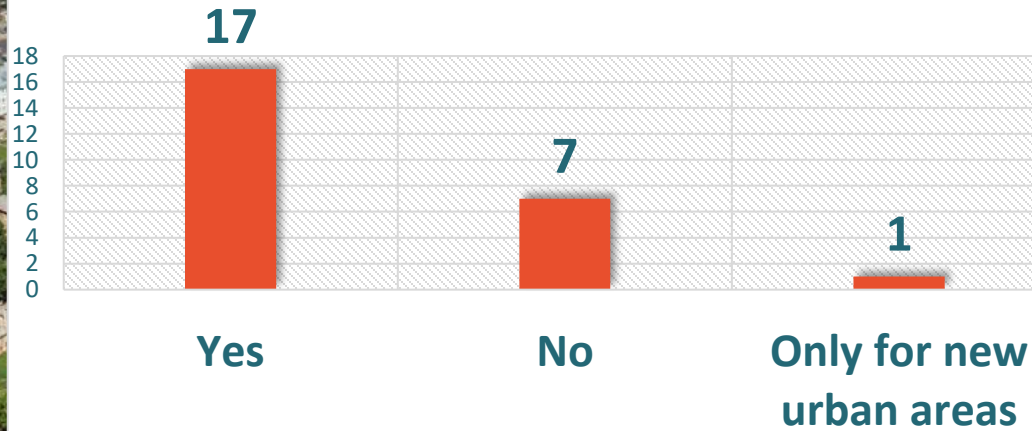


Survey on Stormwater Governance and Practices: Key Findings

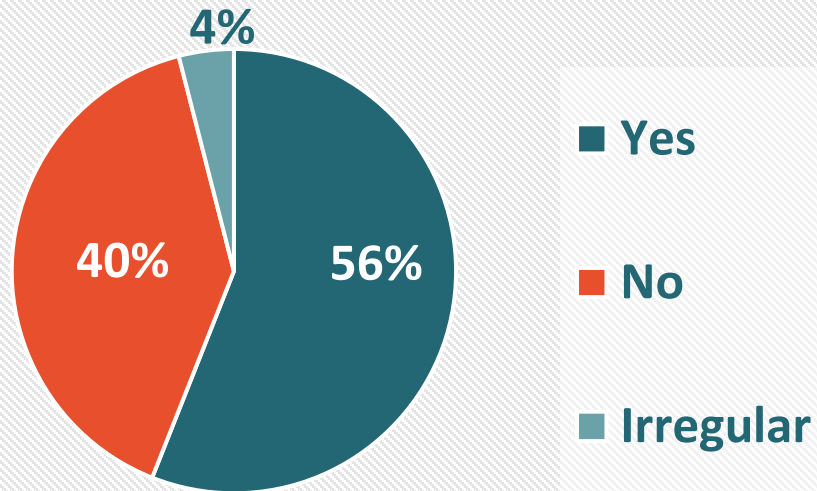
Presence of climate change adaptation plan



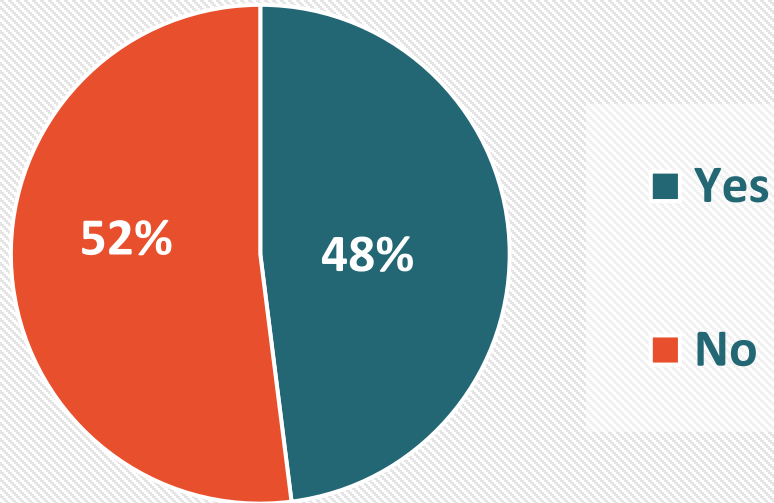
Presence of sustainable stormwater management solutions



Presence of stormwater quality monitoring



Presence of integrated stormwater management (ISWM) plan/strategy



Main Challenges and Barriers

Cities have indicated the following main problems with the existing stormwater system and barriers concerning improving it:

- lack of capacity in existing systems and poor technical conditions
- retrofitting – challenging in densely built areas
- stormwater treatment – insufficient, presence of foul connections
- absence of regular water quality monitoring
- lack of collaboration among responsible city structures
- **low priority of the stormwater management on political agenda**
- lack of knowledge, financing, human resources...

Stormwater Management Recommendations



Recommendations at the EU and BSR levels

Guidance, requirements and recommendations should be prepared to strive for a common regional approach

- Guidance documents prepared on planning and creation of multi-functional and multi-benefit urban spaces
- Specified criteria for transport and urban revitalisation projects under EU funds to include multi-functional and integrated green infrastructure
- Outlined incentives' approach emphasising the benefits of the ISWM
- Dedicated policy area for integrated solutions in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Recommendations at the national level

General principles and priorities of sustainable stormwater management, including the integrated approach to it, should be defined and included into the legislation

- Specified integrated approach to stormwater management, ISWM principles included in the regulation on spatial planning
- Stormwater treatment mandated in legislation related to environmental permitting, spatial planning and planning and design of stormwater systems
- Specified treatment and water quality requirements based on local specifics
- National level guidance documents developed for the local implementation

Recommendations at the local level

Local stormwater management programme, plan and guidance need to be developed for taking into use by the city, developers, landowners

- Regulation (roles, responsibilities, decision making procedure etc.) for the ISWM and the local task force present
- Local requirements for emission limit values and monitoring of stormwater quality, based on the water status of the receiving water
- Local financial incentives and building control tools

A close-up photograph of a vibrant red umbrella, its surface glistening with numerous water droplets of varying sizes. The umbrella is angled diagonally across the frame. In the background, a blurred street scene is visible, showing parked cars and buildings under a grey, overcast sky, suggesting a rainy day. The word "Conclusions" is superimposed in white, bold, sans-serif font over the center of the umbrella.

Conclusions

Conclusions

In most cities of the BSR, there is awareness of and work on the ISWM concepts:

- many cities are applying **catchment basin planning principles** concerning stormwater and have developed catchment plans for at least some of the catchment basins in their territory
- many cities have **stormwater management programmes/plans** and guidelines for sustainable stormwater management
- in most cities there is a **fee for stormwater management**
- in most cities **stormwater quality is monitored**, however, frequency varies

Only in several cities ISWM is an overarching strategic approach!

Conclusions

- New policies, binding targets, and generous incentives are needed for transition to sustainable stormwater management
- Further promotion and prioritization of on-site stormwater treatment approaches that improve urban environment, contribute to urban ecosystem services, and thus, have crucial role in increasing cities' resilience in the context of the climate change

Full report is available at the project
website: www.bsrwater.eu



Thank you!

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