

NEWS from scientific life of interuniversity project teams

Rainwater management not only in cities

IEEP

How to use rainwater efficiently in a city if you have too little or too much of it is a strong topic resonating among representatives of public administration, municipalities, professional and interest groups and the general public. These debates on more efficient water management lead to ever stronger pressure on rainwater reuse, whether by nature-based or more technical measures.

Efficient rainwater reuse is a topic for everyone

We deal with rainwater management (RWM) in both cities and the landscape across our project teams. This year, based on a two-year collaboration with our colleagues from the CTU University Centre for Energy-efficient Buildings, we have published a methodology entitled *WATER IN THE CITY: A methodology for rainwater management in conjunction with green infrastructure*. The methodology was in great demand right after publishing, particularly via the website www.vodavemeste.cz, where it is available for anyone interested in the PDF format.



A methodology on RWM in cities is now available

As part of our popularisation and education activity, we presented parts of it in the first half of the year at several events and conferences and in both expert and popularisation journals. For example, we participated in the event "Water is Life" in Prague in June, where we discussed options and measures for catching, reusing and infiltrating rainwater and slowing down its runoff into sewers. We have also made a series of articles about rainwater management, its benefits for the city and its inhabitants and processes from planning to implementation of measures, which have been published in *Inspirace* magazine, and gave interviews about household water management for *aktualne.cz* and *d-Test* magazine.

Popularisation and education activity is linked to research

The public, notably representatives of municipalities and inhabitants, make up a key group in our new three-year TACR ETA project titled *Municipalities speak about water: Communicating implementation of rainwater management measures in cities*. The project focuses on needs of self-governments regarding communicating measures related to rainwater management, such as greenery planting, implementation of permeable surfaces, eco-friendly greenery maintenance, construction of green roofs and walls, and more. Among other things, therefore, the project *Municipalities talk about water* will include identification of municipalities' needs for better communication of RWM measures and testing of efficiency of communication tools in relation to specific measures and public target groups. The research is led by L. Povolná of FSE UJEP and J. Macháč of the IEEP. The IEEP research team in this project follows up on previous projects, which dealt more with socioeconomic and technical issues of implementation of rainwater management measures. You can find out more about the project and its outcomes at <https://www.ieep.cz/en/obce-mluvi-o-vode/>.

In the new project, we talk to municipalities and citizens about how to communicate RMW effectively

Marek Hekrlé and Jan Macháč

Effects of Covid-19 and other crises on interest in community gardens IEEP

In the area of climate change adaptation and implementation of green and blue infrastructure, our project activities now focus on impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on urban community gardening. Reduction to social contact during the pandemic and reduced travel opportunities have promoted a focus on urban green areas, but it might have had contradictory effects on functioning of community gardens, which are based on people meeting.

However, preliminary results of ongoing interviews with community garden coordinators across different cities and towns, point to increased interest among city dwellers in the opportunity to garden in community gardens even during the pandemic. Our survey among garden members will continue to find out how much an average gardener can grow in a season and whether community gardening can be seen as an effective means of reducing household expenditures on certain foods due to self-sufficiency.

We deal with this issue as part of our new TACR ETA project *PotravSOS: A greater society's resilience to the effects of crisis through increasing food self-sufficiency*, aimed at identifying the potential of reducing negative impacts of crises by establishing community gardens on municipal land, leading, among other things, to increased food self-sufficiency of city inhabitants.

Lenka Dubová

Littering study IEEP

Even during the summer break, we are continuing our field surveys across Czechia focused on litter. This time, they take place in the littering season, associated with higher frequency of use of public space and nature sites. The study is commissioned by EKO-KOM, a.s. Its primary purpose is to design a system for sharing costs of cleaning litter.

The study is nearing its final stage, including completion of field surveys (e.g., Lake Milada, Lake Most and the city of Děčín), a sociological survey among potential litterers, and the project team will design not only the cost sharing system but also measures to prevent littering.

The measure will focus on better work with litter bins in the public space as well as communication campaigns aimed at selected population groups, such as smokers, drivers, juveniles, etc.



Jan Slavík

CONFERENCES

J. Louda, J. Brabec and J. Macháč organized an expert section at the prestigious ESP Conference in Tartu. They led a section dedicated to public preferences in implementation of nature-based measures.

STUDIES

L. Slavíková is a co-author of a study dealing with territorial water retention impacting on drinking water supply. The study, made for Svazek obcí Sever, can be found at www.voda.ujep.cz.

People's perception of natural flood protection measure in the landscape and their benefits are summarized in a study made as part of STRIMA II project by the CTU along with J. Macháč and M. Hekrl. The study is available for download at www.ieep.cz.

In cooperation with STEM and CTU, J. Macháč and L. Slavíková have published a Report for Key Actors focusing on why Czech households (do not) reuse rainwater. More about the study at www.voda.ujep.cz.

NEW ARTICLES

J. Louda, O. Vojáček and L. Slavíková have published an article in *Forests* journal about a combination of institutional analysis and choice experiment for efficient regulation settings.

J. Slavík has co-authored a paper in *Journal of Environmental Management* about factors affecting municipal waste production.

An article by L. Dubová et al. in *Sustainability* journal summarizes members' motivations for involvement in community gardens.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Students' work contest Czech Envi Thesis

Until 30 Sep 2021 (applications), 2 Dec 2021 (finals, Ústí n. L.)

The third year of the contest of most talented students dealing with social scientific aspects of environmental protection. This year's contest is for university and college students in the CR who defended their bachelor or diploma thesis between 1 Oct 2020 and 30 Sep 2021. Application form and more information at www.czechenvithesis.cz.

CzWA VODA biennial conference in Litomyšl

22-24 Sep 2021

A conference about current problems and directions in water management. J. Macháč and M. Hekrl will present a paper on implementation of measures for water retention in landscape from the perspective of various population groups. More information at www.czwa.cz/voda2021.

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