

How the problem was approached

How we went about it:

- We did desk research to find the right place for the project, focusing on the environmental and the social circumstances, receptiveness of local stakeholders;
- After contacting local stakeholders we went for a field visit, conducted several interviews, and visited the settlements;
- Based on the discussions we started to develop a proposal on innovative and sustainable solutions for solving the water problems; and
- Finally, we have organised a workshop about access to water, water usage for children and youth in the neighbourhood;

About the place:

Finally we chose a Southern-Hungarian town and its peripheral neighbourhood. This neighborhood has 16 buildings, with approximately 120 dwellers, entirely inhabited by Roma residents. All of the houses are the property of the municipality and none of the households have connection to public mains. There is only one water pump in the segregated setting and they use its water for everything including drinking, cooking, washing etc. Water is often smelly and reddish and people quite often have diarrhoea and sometimes dysentery. There are ten outdoor toilets /latrines, which are located behind the houses of the segregated setting. The closest toilets are approximately 50-75 metres from the water resource. They should pay rental fee and electricity rates, but since they entirely live on social aid, they cannot pay these bills.

“The aim of the emWATERment group assignment was to create a feasibility plan about the possible adaptation of innovative technologies focusing on water supply and sanitation in a segregated settlement with economically and socially vulnerable dwellers”



Low carbon relevance

The main challenge was to underline the benefits of planting medicinal plants and herbs insofar as the improvement of the soil and air quality by raising awareness of how public institutions can be involved.

How can marginalised and vulnerable groups benefit from establishing low carbon societies?

Environmental change to social change – a Hungarian micro pilot case

The aim of the emWATERment group assignment was to create a feasibility plan about the possible adaptation of innovative technologies focusing on water supply and sanitation in a segregated settlement with economically and socially vulnerable dwellers.

In this project we proposed to be an advisory and consultancy team to find and evaluate the possible technologies fit to our chosen pilot area. We also aimed to show the perspective of communities in need: water and energy poverty is an issue even in developed countries.

Conclusions

We've been starting negotiations with the Roma self-government's chairman and a local researcher who is involved in the neighbourhood's everyday life and knows the inhabitants. They have an idea about a complex water and sanitation container for the neighbourhood.

Our brainstorming and discussions about this or another possible solution are on the feasibility, sustainability and the effectiveness for changing the environmental and social conditions in the neighbourhood.

During the assignment we've been searching for best practices which have relevant aspects to our region and project. We found some project similar to our project's circumstances, for example Romanian or South-African solutions. In the end of this period our goal is to elaborate the framework for cooperation between the stakeholders and support innovative environmental solutions.

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