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The Association of Regional Development Agencies – ROREG





# ANALYSIS ON BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH MUNTENIA REGION

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Project founded through POAT 2014 – 2020



- Environmental situation of South Muntenia Region
- Environmental challenges in South Muntenia Region
- Strategic opportunity
- Regional Analysis on Blue Green Infrastructure in South Muntenia
  - > Goal
  - > Approach
  - > Potential typology and application in South Muntenia Region



### South Muntenia Region

- Rich hydrographic network with Danube being dominant (five smaller rivers), natural and anthropic lakes with complex uses;
- High number of protected areas, including Natura2000;
- > 3 National Parks
- 32 SPA <u>Council Directive 2009/147/EC</u> on the conservation of wild birds
- 41 SCI <u>Council Directive 92/43/EEC</u> of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora





### Environmental challenges in South Muntenia Region

Category	Parameter
The main environmental aspects	<ul> <li>Water quality,</li> <li>Soil pollution</li> <li>Air pollution,</li> <li>Lack of green space</li> </ul>
The main climatological hazards	<ul> <li>Flooding (river flooding and stormwater flooding) and Drought.</li> </ul>
The most important elements that can improve the environment	<ul> <li>Stormwater collection</li> <li>Improvement of Air Quality</li> <li>Increased recreational possibilities</li> <li>Expanding the green space area close to residential areas</li> </ul>











## Strategic opportunity:

Specific Objective b(vii) - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution and associated funds

- Need for a broader strategic view of environmental challenges in order to guide sound investments
  - Change of approach and mindset; nature – based solutions
  - Key stakeholders; Local authorities





### **BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

BGI are engineered solutions that mimic nature, connecting urban hydrological functions (blue) and permeable recreational spaces (green), with wider urban design and planning benefits. BGI can address typical drainage issues such as water quality and extreme flooding, while generating social and environmental value for local areas, that also addresses the challenges of urban growth and climate change.

Important components of BGI to consider are:

- a strategically planned (interconnected) network;
- biodiversity-rich natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, including water bodies and green & open space; and
- designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services.



### Regional Analysis on Blue – Green Infrastructure in South Muntenia

- Funded by the Technical Assistance Operational Program (POAT) 2014-2020
- Carried out by EBRD
- Implementation 6 months (July December 2021)
- Target group: Local Public Authorities
- Output: strategy for BGI





- **GOAL** The Regional analysis undertakes a systematic ecosystemic approach to tackle the environmental challenges with a focus on functional urban areas in South Muntenia region;
- Given the geomorphology, the associated environmental challenges and the socio-economic situation of the region, the analysis includes both green and blue infrastructure;
- The Analysis will identify the main green and blue infrastructure projects, which could be co-financed from EU funds, especially under the SM Regional Operational Programme 2021-2027, *Specific Objective b(vii) - Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.*





MAIN APPROACH					
1	02	03	04	05	
inal Baseline assessment and ap Analysis Compilation and analysis of all survey responses Thematic Maps to support upcoming tasks Tentative ToC for regional analysis	Stakeholder Workshop (9/9) - Discussion of high- level assessments, with focus on the regional scale - Validation and Agreement of Regional Environmental Challenges through participatory discussions and expert assessments	Outline of types of interventions - GIS overlay analysis of projects proposed by stakeholders with thematic maps - High-level regional assessment with focus on BGI at a regional scale, through a simple multi-criteria assessment (MCA)	<ul> <li>Stakeholder Workshop (end- Oct)</li> <li>Discussion of potential project typologies: experts assessment, GIS overlays and feedback from stakeholders</li> <li>Validation and Agreement of Regional Project Typologies</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regional Analysi</li> <li>Pipeline of region project typologies based on output from latest workshop, expert assessments and GIS overlay analys</li> <li>Refined MCA, inco feedback from stakeholders, with focus on resource implications</li> <li>Recommendation</li> </ul>	

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### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

PROJECT APPROACH: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT Identifying environmental challenges in the region

Inform further decisions and pipeline for regional projects

#### STAKEHOLDERS

County councils and the cities, representatives of cities and communes

Relevant governmental agencies (ex. the Agency for Environmental Protection or General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations under the Ministry of Interiors)

#### i. Members of the working group;

CATEGORY AREA OF INTEREST / ROLE

Primary li. Provide inputs to identifying environmental challenges

> lii. Beneficiaries of future investments

Provide inputs to identifying Environmental challenges;

II. Other types of support

#### **Relevant NGOs**

(ex. representing environmental protection, or stakeholders such as youth, women or other categories of populations)

Other

- Provide inputs to identifying Environmental challenges;
- II. Users of the future BGI infrastructure



### Implemented activities so far

- Workshops and site visits

Date	Activity
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Stakeholders Meeting
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Stakeholders Workshop
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Site visit in Calarasi and Ialomita counties
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Site visit in Teleorman and Giurgiu counties
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Site visit in Dambovita, Prahova and Arges counties









EU values in Romanian Regions.

# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES and APPLICATION IN SOUTH-MUNTENIA



**Urban Canal** - Urban canals are larger infrastructure projects that typically involve daylighting of a stream or river within a dense urban area.





Pitesti



# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES and APPLICATION IN SOUTH MUNTENIA



Wetlands - constructed stormwater wetlands are ponded areas, densely vegetated with water-loving plants that mimic the ith detention, fine filtration and biological absorption, to remove contamtreatment processes of natural wetlands winants from stormwater runoff COMANA-(semi-) natural park







# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES – ADAPTATION and APPLICATION TO SOUTH-MUNTENIA



Bioretention Basin - Bioretention basins such as rain gardens, planter boxes and swales can involve daylighting historic streams, formalizing existing streams, or creating new streams as quality improvement and conveyance connections between other cloudburst elements. IALOMIȚA RIVER









# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES – ADAPTATION and APPLICATION TO SOUTH MUNTENIA



**Floodable Parks** - Floodable Parks and recreation spaces present the greatest opportunity for large retention spaces within urban areas.

### CĂLĂRAȘI CENTRAL PARK





# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES



**Retention Boulevard** - retention boulevards are similar in scale to cloudburst roads, but incorporate large green, depressed medians that can detain and retain stormwater while allowing regular traffic use of the street.



**Cloudburst Pipes** - A cloudburst pipe handles rainwater in the same way as cloudburst roads.



**Cloudburst Roads** - Cloudburst roads are used to channel and direct cloudburst water.



# POTENTIAL BGI TYPOLOGIES



Watts Branch, DC Visualization

**Wet Plazas -** wet plazas or floodable public spaces are another great opportunity for large retention capacity within denser urban environments. **Green Streets** - Green Streets are proposed as upstream connections to all cloudburst roads or retention areas.



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# Thank you!

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