

The organisation and financing of rainwater management is not a new challenge, yet, many countries are still looking for better solutions. The European Union law does not impose a unified solution and does not regulate this matter in any particular way. However, following the framework directive on water, water should remain in the place of precipitation. Any other forms of drainage should be used only when necessary. Treatment and drainage of rainwater should be paid following "polluter pays" and "user pays" principle.

The situation in Central and Eastern Europe is less organised. For example, in the Czech Republic or Slovakia there is no unified solution. In Prague, sewage system operator has 23 rain gauges connected to control centre. There is no fee for water drainage and the cost of energy and chemicals used to treat rainwater at the water treatment plant is included in sewage fee.

In France or Germany, drainage fee is far more common. Paris, for example, is divided into several precipitation zones, which is the base for estimating the volume of rainwater drainage. Any retention methods in the place of precipitation are polarised or even subsidised. In Brussels, drainage fee is included in water and sewage fee.

Analysing European solutions is an opportunity to find interesting ways for the developing organisation in Poland.