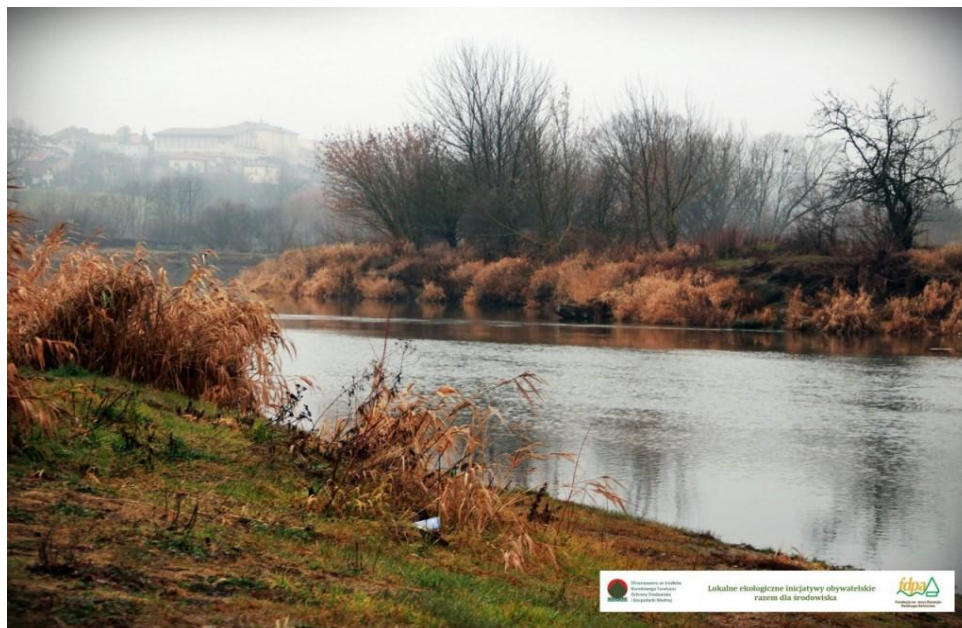


National best practice PL - CEURES project

# Narew River Clean-up in Łomża as a Local Ecological Civic Initiative

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„the problem of waste doesn't disappear, it's only hidden under the water”

Title of Best Practice: Narew River Clean-up

Pillar: Climate Change

Category: environmental sustainability and education

Place of best practice: Łomża, Poland

Coordinated by: „Podwodny Jeleń” scuba diving club and Foundation for Development Polish Agriculture in the frame of the project 'Local ecological civic initiatives - Together for the Environment (2016 edition)

Methods of financing: National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, own funds of FDPA, Podwodny Jeleń scuba diving club, SONAROL company

Approach for data collection:

use of open access information, connecting with the organizers



# About the location and aims of the initiative



Fundacja na rzecz Rozwoju Polskiego Rolnictwa

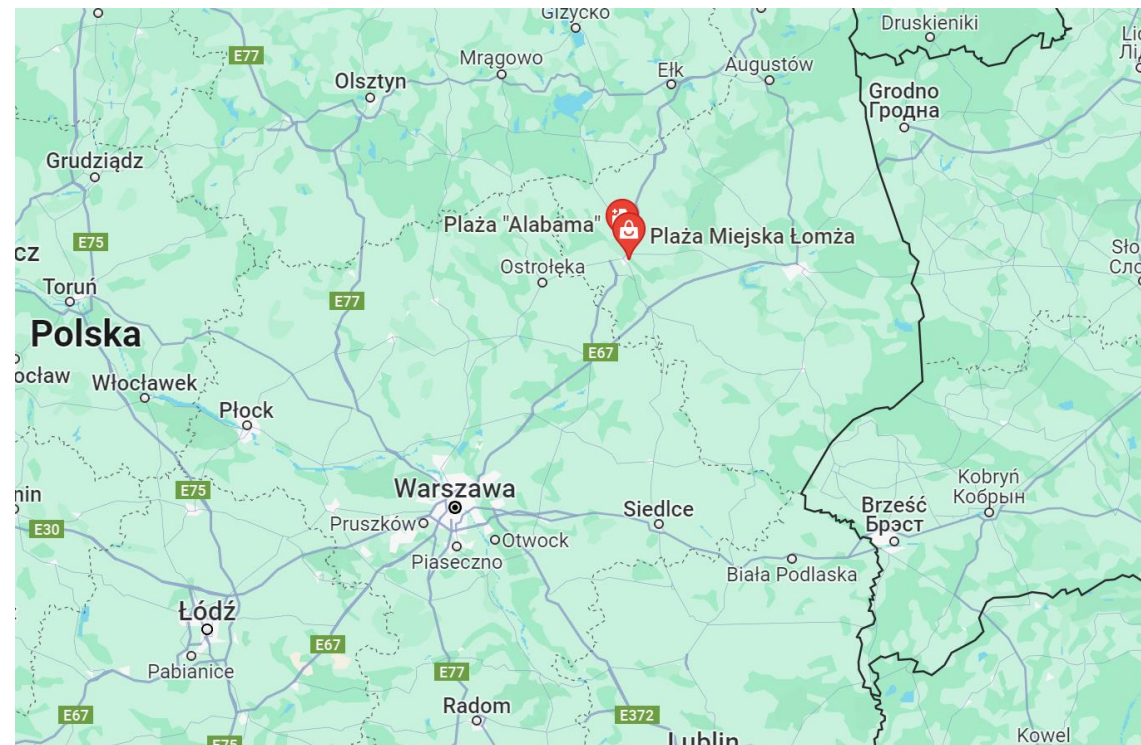
12 stycznia 2016 · 🌐

Zobaczcie jak wygląda teraz Narew. Latem na tym terenie zostanie zrealizowana inicjatywa „Sprzątanie Narwi”, finansowana przez FDPA ze środków NFOŚiGW. Autorem pomysłu jest Łomżyński Klub Płetwonurków "Podwodny Jeleń". W ramach akcji zostaną usunięte skutki mechanicznego zniszczenia i dewastacji siedlisk przyrodniczych



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=klub%20p%C5%82etwonurk%C3%B3w%20Podwodny%20Jele%C5%84>



Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/%C5%81om%C5%BCa+pla%C5%BCa+miejska+Narew/@52.4058495,19.0464796,7.08z?entry=ttu>

# Objectives

## Interdisciplinary Approach:

environmental protection and education

- Clean the river from debris that accumulates on the bottom; clean the beach and the surroundings
- Raise awareness among residents about the pollution problem of the Narew which is used for recreational purposes
- Sensitize especially those residents who contaminate the waters with solid objects knowingly contributing to the degradation of the natural environment and the destruction of the natural fauna and flora

## For whom

For the residents, visitors, tourists,  
the environment

## Why

Despite its charm and beautiful location, the Narew River is exposed to various pollutants. It is necessary to restore its natural beauty and clean it from debris that accumulates on the bottom.

## How

cleaning up debris on the urban beach and underwater, under the "Hubala" bridge, and the parking lot with the use of special equipment



Fot. <https://mylomza.pl/artykul/posprzatali-dno-rzeki/578046>



## Actions taken:

- Purchase of necessary equipment for locating and efficiently collecting debris (a pontoon boat with engine, echo sounder, diving lanterns, batteries, and chargers)
- Cleaning the urban beach and the areas nearby
- Removal of debris from the riverbed and dangerous objects threatening the safety of swimmers
- Preparation of the beach and bathing area for safe use during the summer season and cleanup at the end of the season (after closing the beach)

Fot. <https://www.fdpa.org.pl/sprzatanie-narwi>

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## Methods of involving the local community



- Information (local social media, press etc.)
- Participating in the clean-up activities
- Social integration activities following the clean-up
- Gifts by sponsors – the Scuba Diving Club, SONAROL and FDPA

## Achieved Results

All "underwater treasures" were brought to the shore and photographed. The most significant find turned out to be a metal plate, which probably was part of a bridge railing several years ago. Other items retrieved from the water included glass bottles, rusty cans, various metal elements, and tree branches

The collected debris was placed in one location and taken to the landfill by municipal services



Fot. <https://www.fdpa.org.pl/sprzatanie-narwi>



## Challenges, Limitations, Side Effects

- the action requires know-how and shouldn't be taken by inexperienced persons or groups - cleaning rivers and channels with flowing water is approached differently than cleaning lakes
- legal issues are to be respected: before taking action, the owner or user of the water body must be contacted. All rivers and channels with flowing water and the vast majority of lakes are "public waters" over which, according to the law (Water Law Act), we have the right to move freely, but only in a 1.5-meter strip of the adjacent bank.
- Access to the water, transport of collected debris, and parking of vehicles require contact with the landowner and their consent to the action. The organizer is obliged to notify the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection about the activities if the water body is located in a protected area. This is especially relevant in Landscape Parks or National Parks, where conducting the action requires joint organization and cooperation of these units with the organizers in cleaning the bottoms of reservoirs.

## What is the 'Excellence' of the Project, What is its Greatest Achievement

Not innovative in the strict meaning of the word, but the excellence of the action lies in its consequently cyclical character – it has been taken yearly since 2006. Additionally, in 2016 it engaged an organization operating at a nationwide scale, and a record number of 21 scuba divers

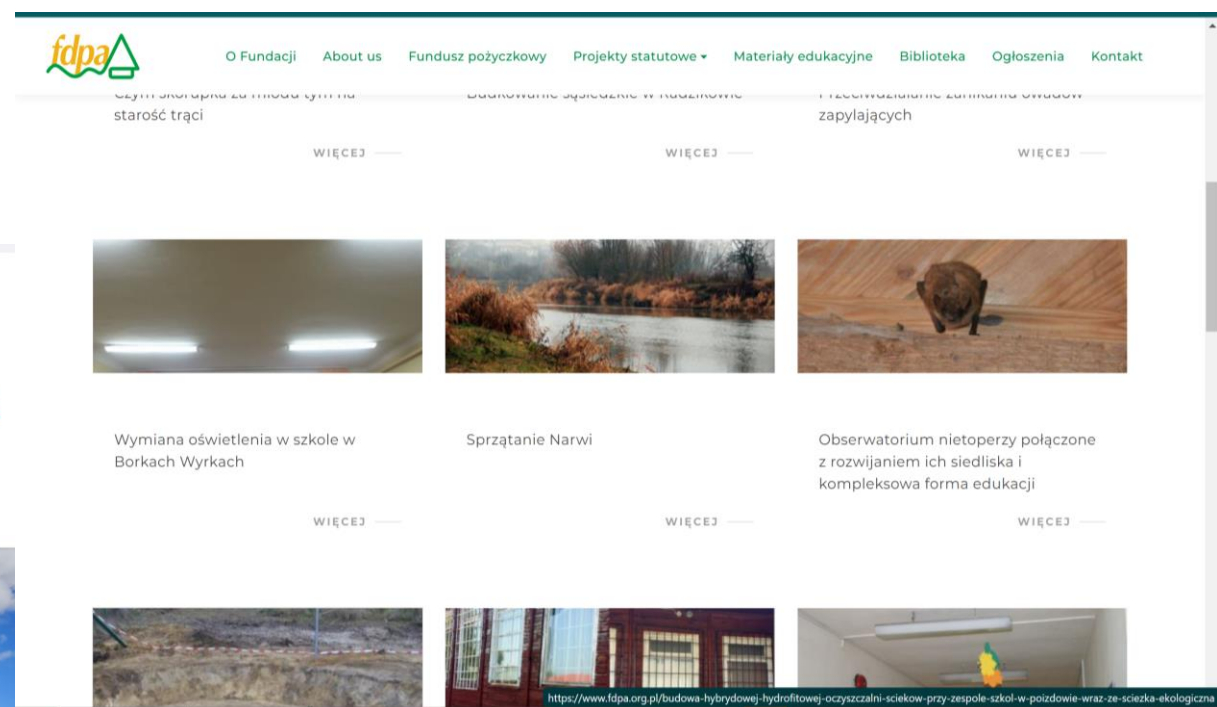
## Adaptation possibilities for other settlements:

Technical adjustments may be needed or special precautions taken in the case of waters in other climatic zones

## Limitations of Implementation in other locations (e.g., scale, culture, geographical location, climate, political issues, etc.)

The initiative concerns flowing water and a city beach, thus a specific natural context. The initiative is fitted for implementation in other Visegrad Group (V4) countries or locations with a different climate. Organizational challenges may be related to the presence of different fauna and flora, weather conditions, hydrological conditions, or other physical-geographical factors. The latter might require only technical adjustments.

# Saved and continued



<https://www.fdpa.org.pl/48,lokalne-inicjatywy-ekologiczne>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057295066372>