

Over 10 years ago, an ambitious cultural worker from Gdansk had a dream. She wanted to extend her network and optimize the potential of the waterfront in her hometown.

She heard about an interesting European project where the waterfront was linked to a sustainable cultural and social project. As the woman had always been dedicated to lifelong learning and had some experience applying for like-minded programmes, she decided to give it a go. The fact that she had always felt a close connection to water\* only added to her motivation to dedicate to this project.

However, it wasn't as easy as she hoped... A lot of paperwork needed handling, which all took a lot longer than expected. And although she had experience in standing at the postal office among her colleagues to make the deadline, this time she gave up. However much she wanted it to work out, there was just no way. She turned off her computer and switched on the news.

There she heard a rapport about heavy rainfall in the North of Poland and she felt sorry for the people there, who would suffer from this stormy weather. The next day, the woman found out about the floods in the North that followed the excessive rainfall. Little did she know this would be the thing to help her get into the European project after all! Because of the floods, the Office for Culture decided to delay the deadline for application. She now had 3 extra days to finish the report and gave it her all.

She felt like the water had helped her, in some way. Like the water told her to go for it. Like it said "I'll help you, if that means you can help me next.". So, she applied, got into the project and got some many opportunities because of it. Now she's has been working on optimizing the use of waterfronts alongside her European co-workers through the River Cities project. Setting up events, inviting experts, getting people involved.

\* She remembers very well... As a young child she and her family were once parked near a lake. Before anyone noticed, she ran into the water with all her clothes still on. She was soaking wet, but so happy and enthusiastic.

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