



Canal It Up



Co-funded by
the European Union

Topic
Waste

Where was it implemented?
Brussels Canal

Who made it possible?
Citizens and local authorities



Link to the project

<https://www.canalidup.org/en/home-en/>



Brief description

This project was launched in 2019 by a group of citizens who were tired of the plastic pollution in the canal. They bought a kayak and started cleaning the water. Soon, they were joined by other citizens who dreamed of the same ideal: clean water.

Results achieved

The initiative was made possible because the local authorities support the project and because the instigators managed to create a network of citizens to support them as well, by sharing the project on social media and organising group cleaning trips on the canal.

Success factors

The success of this initiative was made possible due to the determination of the instigators, who went every week on the canal, every time with new people. This allowed them to quickly increase their network. Now they have also developed other projects, such as creating a trash barrier.

People/organisations involved

This project started with 4 citizens of Brussels who decided to take the matter of water pollution in their own hands. Then, each time they went to clean the canal, they brought one more person with them, and a network of volunteers started growing.

They are now also supported by the city and local environmental organisations.

Replicability tips

To implement a similar project, all you need is a kayak or a small boat, and small fishing nets. However, you also need to make sure that everything is done safely.