The "Development Strategy for River Warta in Poznan" is a pioneering project in which Dutch expertise and experience on river management and urban planning is combined with Polish local know how. International experts shared their knowledge with local authorities, representatives of the society and private stakeholders to develop a common understanding and broad foundation for the development of Poznan as a livable and lovable city on the River Warta.

Rivers have for centuries been the backbone of development for many cities in the world. The Polish City of Poznan originated on the borders of the River Warta, that offered the city for a long time possibilities for trade, military defence, food production, water and so on. But in the past large parts of the river were canalized resulting in River Warta losing its importance and identity as an essential integrated element of the city. The ecological, natural, social and economic importance of the river got lost. In recent years the canalization also resulted in heavy floods of the city. These floods revealed the necessity for interventions that need to be taken in order to improve the river safety.

The Development Strategy (2013) is a long term vision that combines water safety measures to be incorporated in Poznan’s broadly based social development, while at the same time enabling spatial developments to be adapted to essential water management measures. The strategy is underpinned by six guiding themes: river safety, landscape & nature, historical heritage, connectivity, living & working, and tourism & recreation. Within these guiding themes some 70 short, mid and long term projects have been identified such as developing river islands, new river channels, marinas, ecological corridors and the revitalization of river fronts. A well balanced realization of these projects from different perspectives, will result in an integrated long term development of the river zone with benefits for Poznan’s people and nature. The financial and economic feasibility of these projects have been integrated in the strategy.

The strategy has been acknowledged by the City of Poznan as their long term vision on the restoration of River Warta in Poznan. The works on implementation of the plans have been started and will be executed in the period towards 2030.
RIVER AS NATURAL ENGINE FOR THE CITY
POZNAK, POLAND

KuiperCompagnons (Lead Consultant, The Netherlands, www.kuiper.nl)
City of Poznan (Beneficiary, Poznan Poland, www.poznan.pl)
RoyalHaskoningDHV (Sub Consultant, The Netherlands, www.rhdhv.nl)
SwedeCenter (Project Partner, Poland, www.swedecenter.pl)
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PILOT PROJECT 3
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WARTA RIVER
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