

Why

Water that ends up on pavements or buildings is still too often accelerated towards the sewer system or streams and does not get the chance to infiltrate towards the groundwater.

By first allowing water to flow off towards a WADI (Water Drainage and Infiltration) we can slow down the flow. That way we limit overflows and can reduce flooding. This also ensures that water is not unnecessarily discharged to the sewage treatment plant. In a WADI or infiltration zone that water can **temporarily** in a WADI or infiltration zone. In this way, the water is in contact with the soil longer and has a chance to infiltrate towards the groundwater. This allows us to replenish the groundwater more and limits our drought susceptibility.

Cost

Guide prices construction and other costs can be found [here](#).

<https://www.gidsduurzamegebouwen.brussels/wadis/kostprijen>

Through the VLIF non-productive investment aid (NPI), the investment in a WADI can be 100% subsidized. Subsidies are granted up to a cost price of 110€/m² (excluding VAT). More info can be found [here](#).

These subsidies only apply to agricultural plots or company infrastructures, not to private applications.

What

A WADI can temporarily store rainwater **temporarily store** in a lower area. That water can then slowly infiltrate into the soil. The soil forms a kind of natural filter; in other words, the water enters the groundwater (partially) purified after its passage.

From top to bottom, the lower zone is composed of a planted top layer on a permeable soil. Under that top layer, a drainage layer is filled with permeable material (gravel, clay pellets). Geotextile prevents the drainage layer from silting up. The water that enters the coffer can thus flow easily towards an infiltration/drainage pipe.

To prevent flooding, the WADI can be equipped with an overflow. This way, when water levels are high, the water can still be discharged faster to a drain pipe, a nearby stream, or the stormwater runoff

Supported by



Medegefinancierd door
de Europese Unie



AGENTSCHAP
LANDBOUW &
ZEEVISSERIJ



DEPARTEMENT
OMGEVING

The ACLIMA-project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union under contract number LIFE 20 CCA/BE/001720.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

This document is subject to the terms and conditions. Full terms and conditions can be found at the bottom of the Life ACLIMA website (<https://lifeaclima.eu>)

Want to know more? Discover the detailed explanation of this measure at <https://www.lifeaclima.eu>

This sheet is the version of 18/10/2026