MARGIN Interviews

Interview Questionnaire

Munich

Context: Research within the MARGIN Project on sustainable groundwater management in the context of climate change and urbanization.

Focus: rainwater infiltration- sponge city concept / thermal uses of groundwater / groundwater extremes

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Focus (tick the one that apply):

    [ ] Topic A – Rainwater infiltration / Sponge City

    [ ] Topic B – Thermal uses of groundwater

    [ ] Topic C – Groundwater extremes (high/low levels).

1. Institutional Role and Legal Framework

· What is your department's role in planning, permitting, implementation, and monitoring related to the selected topic?

· What specific responsibilities do you hold regarding the selected topic?

· Which national/regional/local regulations, technical standards, or policy frameworks guide your work?

· Are there protected zones, constraints, or priority areas that are especially relevant in this topic (e.g., drinking-water protection zones, heritage, flood-prone areas)?

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1

2. Goverance Process – Technical and Legal

Could you describe the end-to-end process from concept → design → permitting → implementation → operation (and, if applicable, monitoring) for the selected topic?

· What are the key technical steps of this phase ?

· Which permits or legal approvals are required, by whom, and at what stage?

· Which actors or departments are involved in review and decision-making (planning, environment, public works, water authority, utilities, building authority, others)?

· How long does the process typically take from concept to implementation? What are the usual bottlenecks?

· At which steps are the public or property owners engaged (consultation, consent, co-funding)?

3. Institutional Collaboration and Governance

· Which municipal departments and external institutions do you collaborate with (e.g., planning, environment, public works, state water authority, utilities, building control, academia/consultants)?

· Is there specific collaboration with IT departments? Is spatial data uploaded/shared via a geoportal or CDE (Common Data Environment)? How effective is this digital collaboration (versioning/APIs, access rights, update cycles)?

· Are roles and accountabilities clear ? Where do overlaps or gaps occur? Are there standing working groups or Standard Operating Procedures?

· Where do you perceive the main challenges in interdepartmental cooperation, and how could they be improved?

4. Data Management and Monitoring

· How is data managed for the selected topic? Is it centralized, digitized, and accessible across departments? Who is the custodian (data stewardship, update frequency, quality checks)?

· Is there an active registry and monitoring of assets/sites and their performance? What indicators are tracked and how often?

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2

· Does the city maintain up-to-date mapping layers (e.g., infiltration suitability; groundwater highs/lows)?

· Are datasets published via the city geoportal/Open Data? Are APIs available? How is version control handled?

· Where do you see gaps (inconsistent formats, limited access, lack of monitoring)?

5. Technical Criteria and Site Selection

· How are suitable locations determined? What screening criteria do you use?

· How do you evaluate potential impacts (e.g., basement flooding or contaminant mobilisation for infiltration; thermal interference for energy use; high/low groundwater risks for buildings)?

· Do you apply multi-criteria decision tools or suitability maps for early go/no-go?

6. Economic Instruments and Public Engagement

· What economic instruments are used (e.g., stormwater fee linked to impervious surface)?

· Which stakeholders are engaged (residents, businesses, developers, NGOs)? At what stages, and through which mechanisms?

· Could you share examples of successful or challenging projects involving nature-based solutions or groundwater-based energy systems? Key lessons learned?

7. Overall Assessment and Improvement Needs

· From your perspective, how well are the selected topic currently functioning in your city/region? What has worked best?

· What key gaps or weaknesses exist in the legal, technical, data, or institutional setup?