



RIVER BASIN CONNECTIVITY and DAM MANAGEMENT

The importance of sharing practices through a knowledge network

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MISSION

Enhance Ecological River Restoration

throughout

PAN - EUROPE



A wide-angle photograph of a river restoration site. The foreground shows a grassy bank with a small stream. In the background, a group of people are standing near a blue informational table, looking at a map or display. The landscape is flat and open, with distant hills under a clear sky.

RIVER RESTORATION

- Restoring towards natural functioning of rivers
- Large variety of measures
- Providing a framework for sustainable multifunctional use of rivers
- Is more than implementing EU Directives
- EU Directives are drivers for river restoration



ECRR VISION

- River Restoration is **eco-system based**
- **Ecological** River Restoration is an **integral part** of sustainable water management
- ECRR is **connecting people and organizations** working on river restoration (network / platform)
- ECRR supports development of **good/best practices** strategies of river (basin) restoration



ECRR STRATEGY

- **Dissemination** of Ecological River Restoration Information
- **Establishment** of River Restoration National and Topic Centers / Networks
- Annual workplan for and with all members, and largely in collaboration with Wetlands International
- Partnerships with various International Water Organisations like GWP(CEE).



ECRR Historical development

- 1994 **LIFE Joint Demonstration Project** UK / DK
- 1999 Constitutional Meeting ECRR Network in DK
- International Conferences
 - 1999 Silkeborg Denmark
 - 2000 Wageningen Netherlands
 - 2004 Zagreb Croatia
 - 2008 Venice Italy
 - 2013 and 2014 Vienna Austria
- 2010 – 2013 **LIFE RESTORE Project**
- 2015 ECRR **Association** and ECRR Network
- 2018/2019 Collaborative Workplan with Wetlands International European Association



THE ECRR ASSOCIATION MEMBER AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



Finnish Environment Institute

**AGENCE FRANÇAISE
POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ**
ÉTABLISSEMENT PUBLIC DE L'ÉTAT





KEY ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS

- Web based data base of restoration projects / case studies
- Production of a technical (position) paper for the WFD Review.
- River Restoration Conferences
- Strengthening and extending the network
- Institutional development; Association, governance, funding
- Professionalising communication and cooperation
- ECRR Newsletter with ca. 2500 subscribers
- ECRR Website www.ecrr.org



WHAT IS THE STATE OF EUROPE'S RIVERS AFTER 20 YEARS

Recently European Environment Agency reports:

- Only and still 40% of surface waters in good ecological condition.
- With the main pressures:

– Hydro-morphological	40% + 17% heavily modified
– Diffuse pollution	38%
– Atmospheric deposition (mercury)	38%
– Point source pollution	18%
– Water abstraction	7%
- Deterioration of rivers / waters stopped?



What is missing / underdeveloped

- Integrated River Basin Management Planning and Implementation
 - Integrating sectoral policies on EU level; water & energy & agriculture; Now on basin level.
- River Basin Restoration Approach / Strategies
 - Ecological (landscape) restoration; now mainly habitats and species.
- National River Restoration Strategies & Planning
 - Multiple benefits of river restoration
 - Monitoring & Evaluation
- River restoration knowledge
 - More applied research
 - Practical river restoration techniques and knowledge base
 - Development of best practices
 - (International) exchange of river restoration information



IMPRESSION I.S. RIVERS CONFERENCE 2018





I.S. RIVERS CONFERENCE 2018

ECRR WORKSHOP RIVER CONTINUITY / CONNECTIVITY

All dams should be removed?!

- WFD River states continuity = river flow not disturbed by anthropogenic activities.
- WFD Implementation Strategy = improving connectivity and natural dynamics
 - Longitudinal
 - Lateral
 - Vertical
- Improving connectivity underpinned by the I.S. Rivers ECRR Conference Sessions



ASPECTS OF (BEST) PRACTICES OF RIVER CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION

- Barrier surveys; Removal of barriers; Adaptive management of barriers; Demonstration, information and participation.
- Policies and strategies of improving connectivity; Integrated River Basin Management Approach; Integrating policies.
- River continuity / connectivity and hydro-morphology.
- River continuity and water use, floods and droughts.
- River continuity and opening up migratory fish habitats.
- Removing barriers or mitigating, compensating impacts.
- Specific knowledge development and exchange.
- Politics, advocacy and comms concerning (integrated) policies.

ECRR TASK FORCE RIVER CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION!?

- Call for participation and support
- Endorsed, recommended and supported by the ECRR GMM2018 in November 2018
- Workshops and Seminar in 2019
- Best Practices inventory
- ECRR Project / Case Study Information Data Base
- ECRR Newsletter special end 2019
- Future International River Restoration Conference Theme?!



ECRR COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY 2018

- Great networking opportunities sharing motivating examples and best practices
- Unique international exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries / continents
- High appreciation for the reliable, technical / scientific information
- Better profiling by using more adequate communications means
- Use ECRR's outstanding values, reputation and network more for fundraising



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



ECRR MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES AT THE GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING 2017 in PARIS, FRANCE