

An Introduction to the European Open Rivers Programme

Gwen Macdonald
Grants Manager

Dam Removal Europe Seminar
Lisbon, Portugal
May 2022

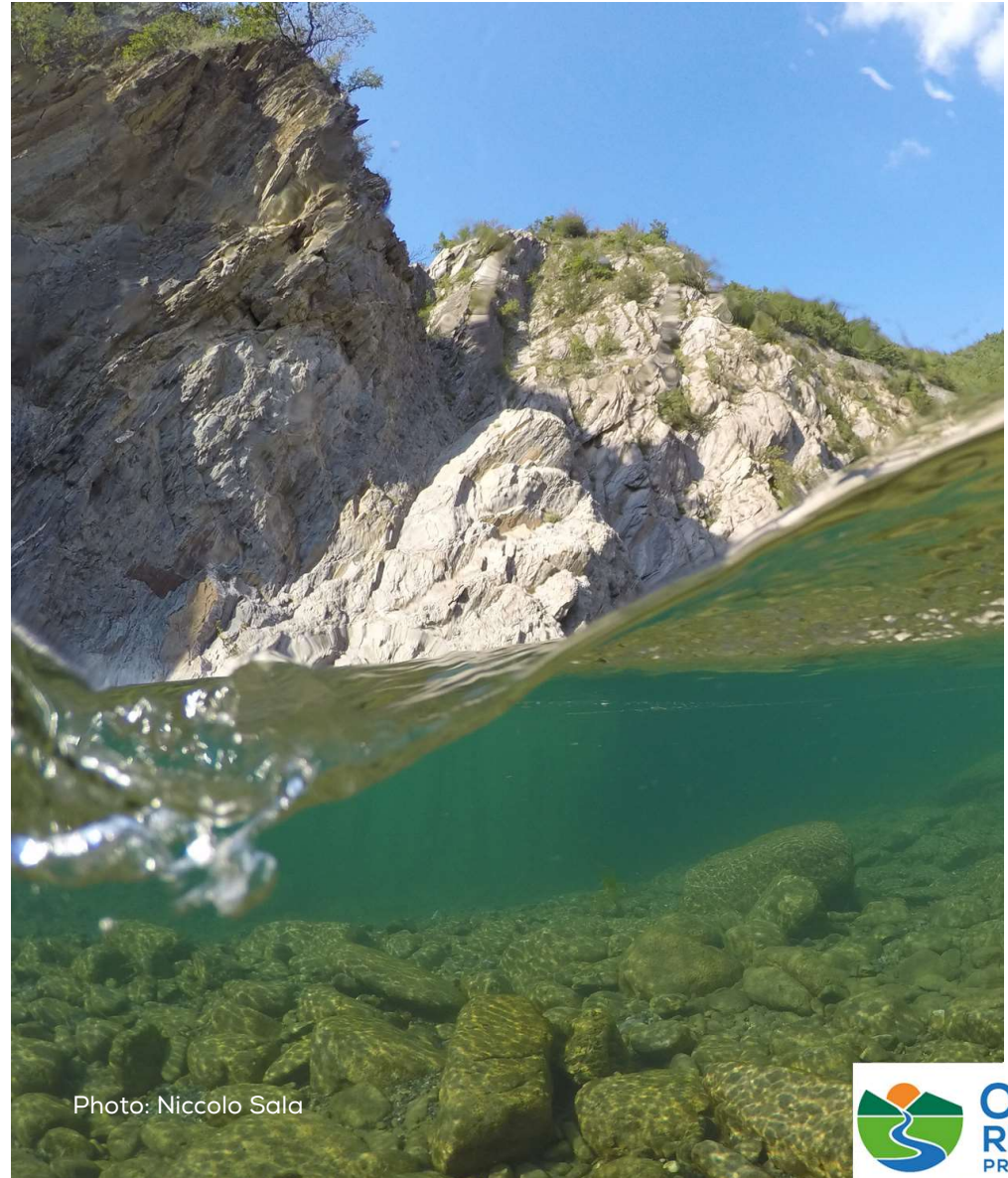


Photo: Niccolo Sala





Agenda

What?

Who?

How?

Where?

Examples?

Key takeaways



© Roland
Dorozhni



The Problem

Fragmentation of
European Rivers

Vision

To create free-flowing rivers
with healthy, diverse and
connected ecosystems across
Europe, which are enjoyed,
valued, and protected by the
communities that depend on
them.

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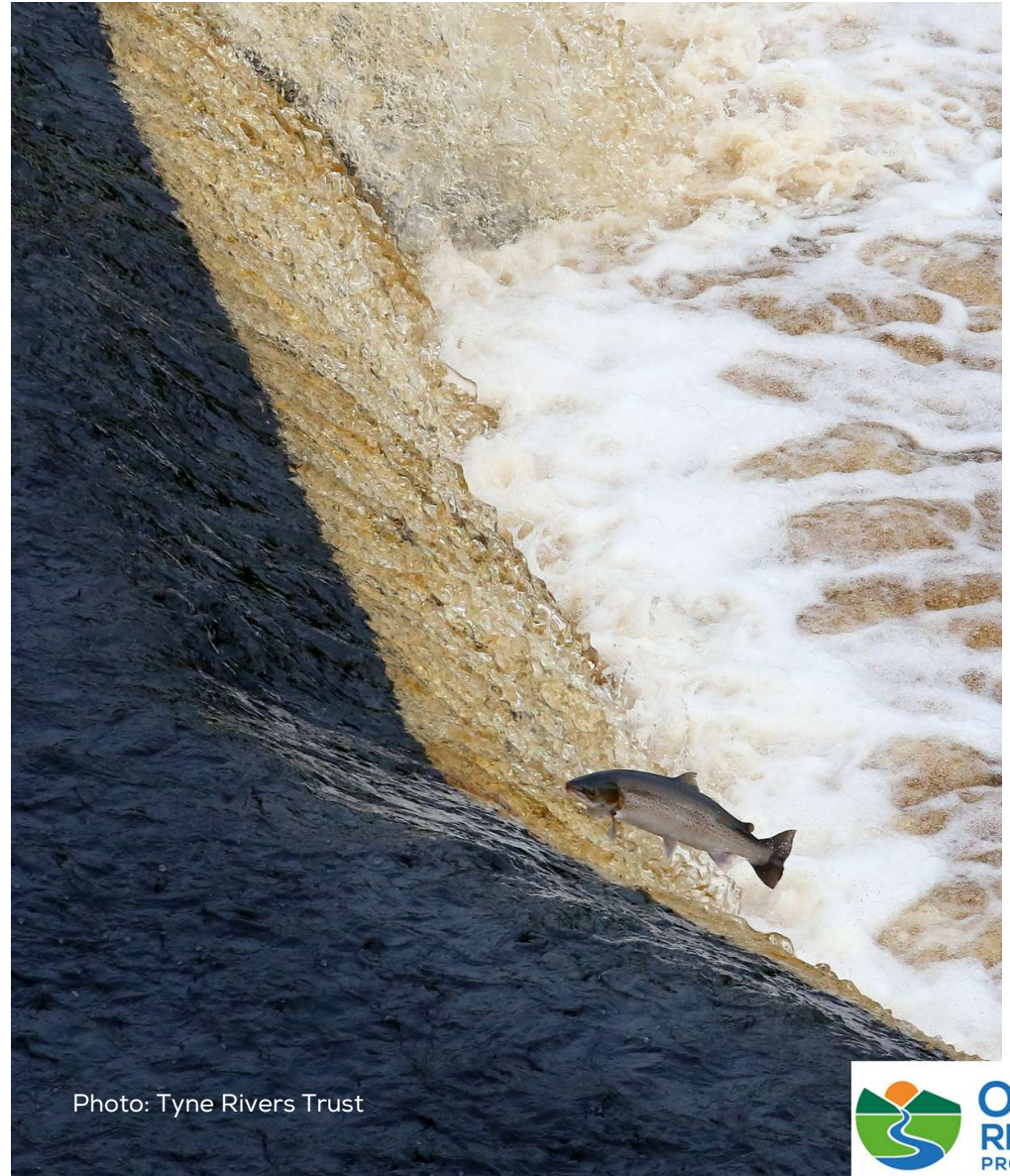


Photo: Tyne Rivers Trust

Open Rivers Programme

To restore endangered European rivers by supporting interventions that lead to the removal of small dams and the restoration of river flow and biodiversity.



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www.arcadiahfund.org.uk

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Why Dam Removal?

Over one million barriers

Cost effective solution

Restores river continuity

Improves biodiversity

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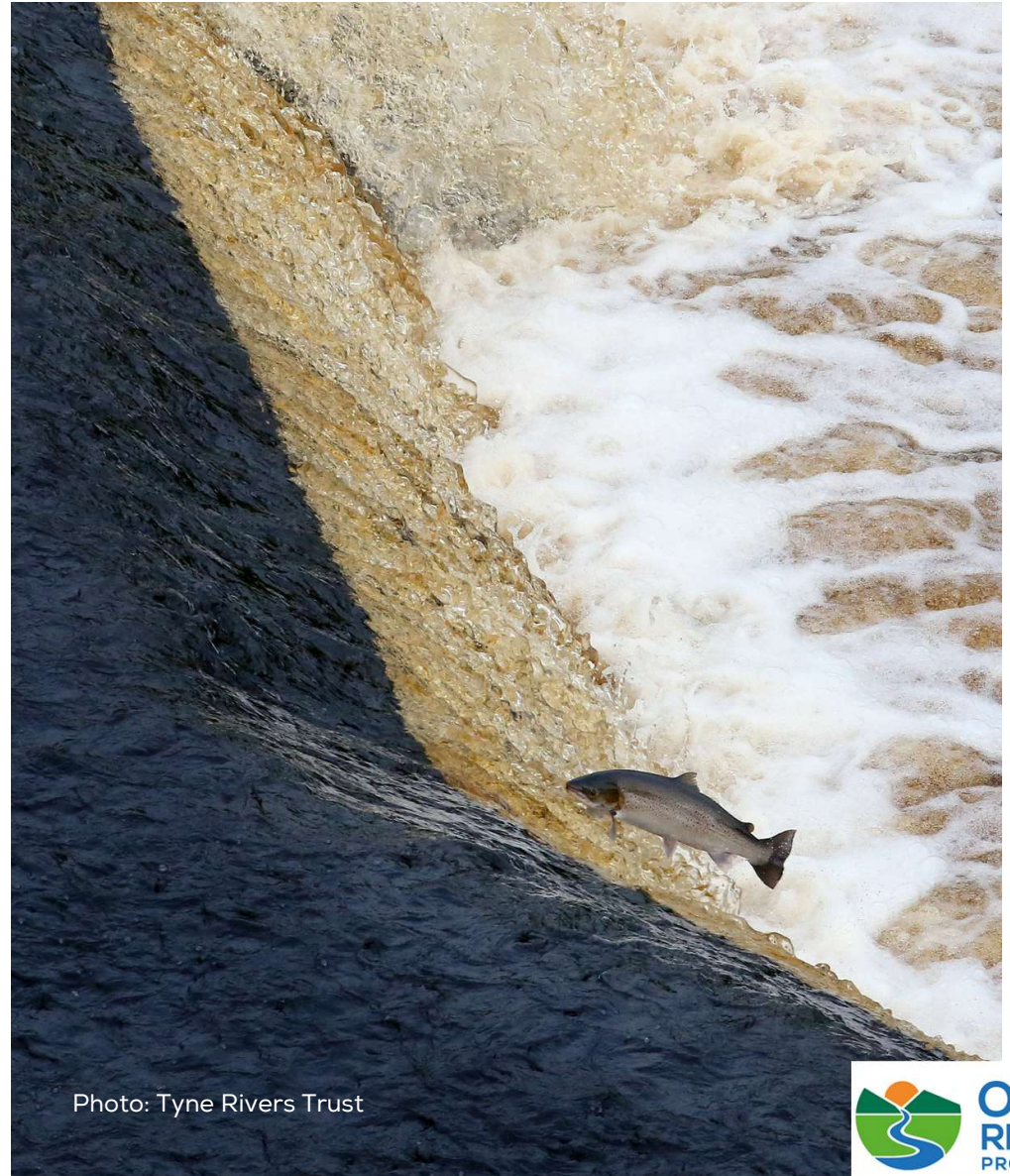


Photo: Tyne Rivers Trust

Open Rivers Programme

New, targeted organization

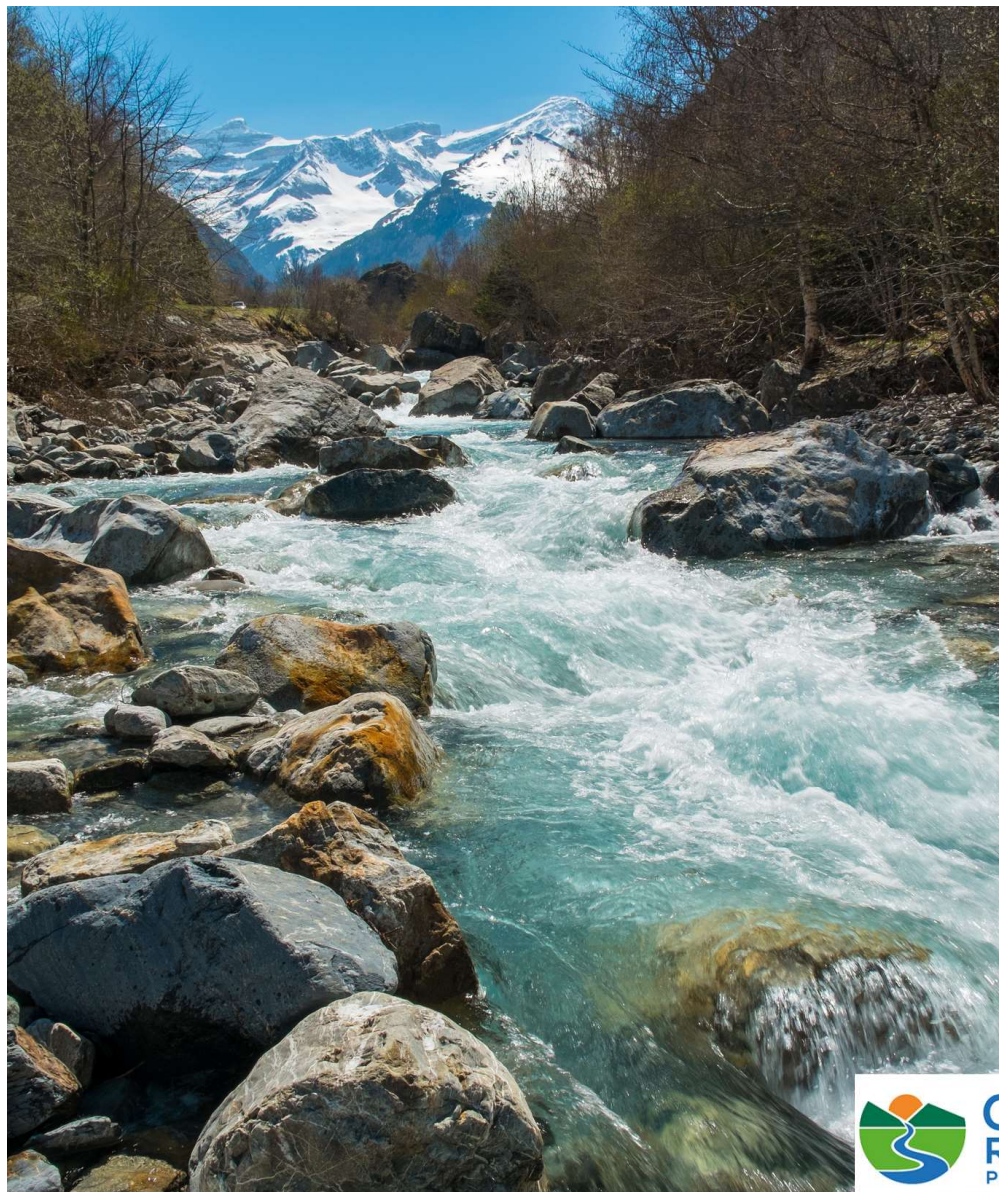
Greater Europe

Private, flexible funding

€42.5 MIL Euros

2021 - 2027

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Open Rivers Programme

About me



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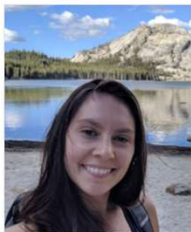


Open Rivers Programme

Programme Management Team



Jack Foxall
Executive Director



Gwen Macdonald
Grants Manager

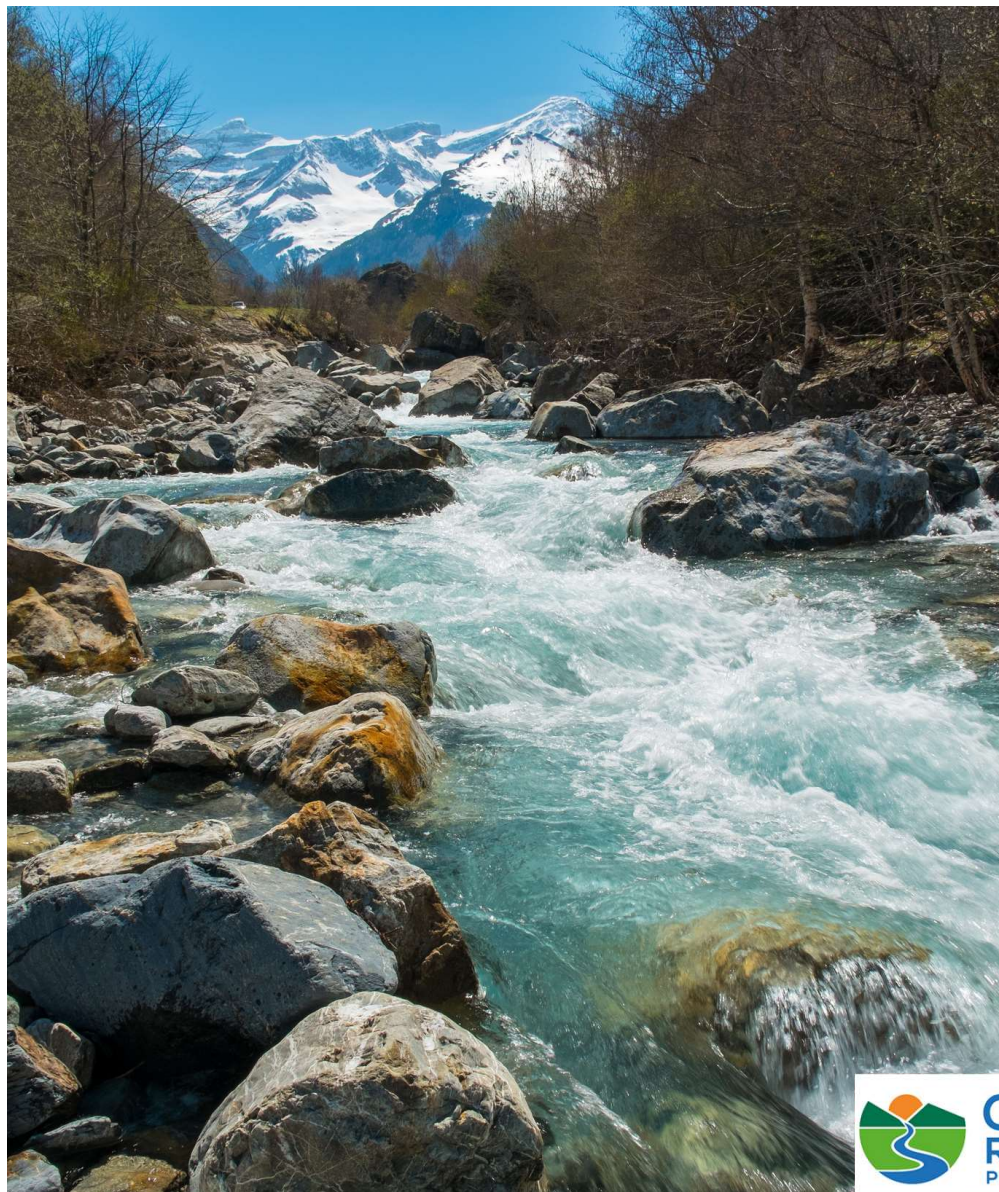


Roxanne Diaz
Communications Manager



Claudia de Vries
Office Manager

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Open Rivers Programme

Programme Advisors:

Supervisory Board

Program Advisory Board

Grant Selection Panel

<https://openrivers.eu/about/our-people/>

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Supervisory Board



Arjan Berkhuisen
(Chair)



Bart Fokkens



Caroline Visser

Programme Advisory Group



Herman Wanningen
Dam Removal Europe



Merijn Hougee
Dam Removal Europe



Martin Janes
European Center for River
Restoration



Konstantin Ivanov
Global Water Partnership



James Dalton
International Union for
Conservation of Nature



Sebastian Birk
MERLIN Project



**Carlos Garcia de
Leaniz**
Swansea University



Our Grants

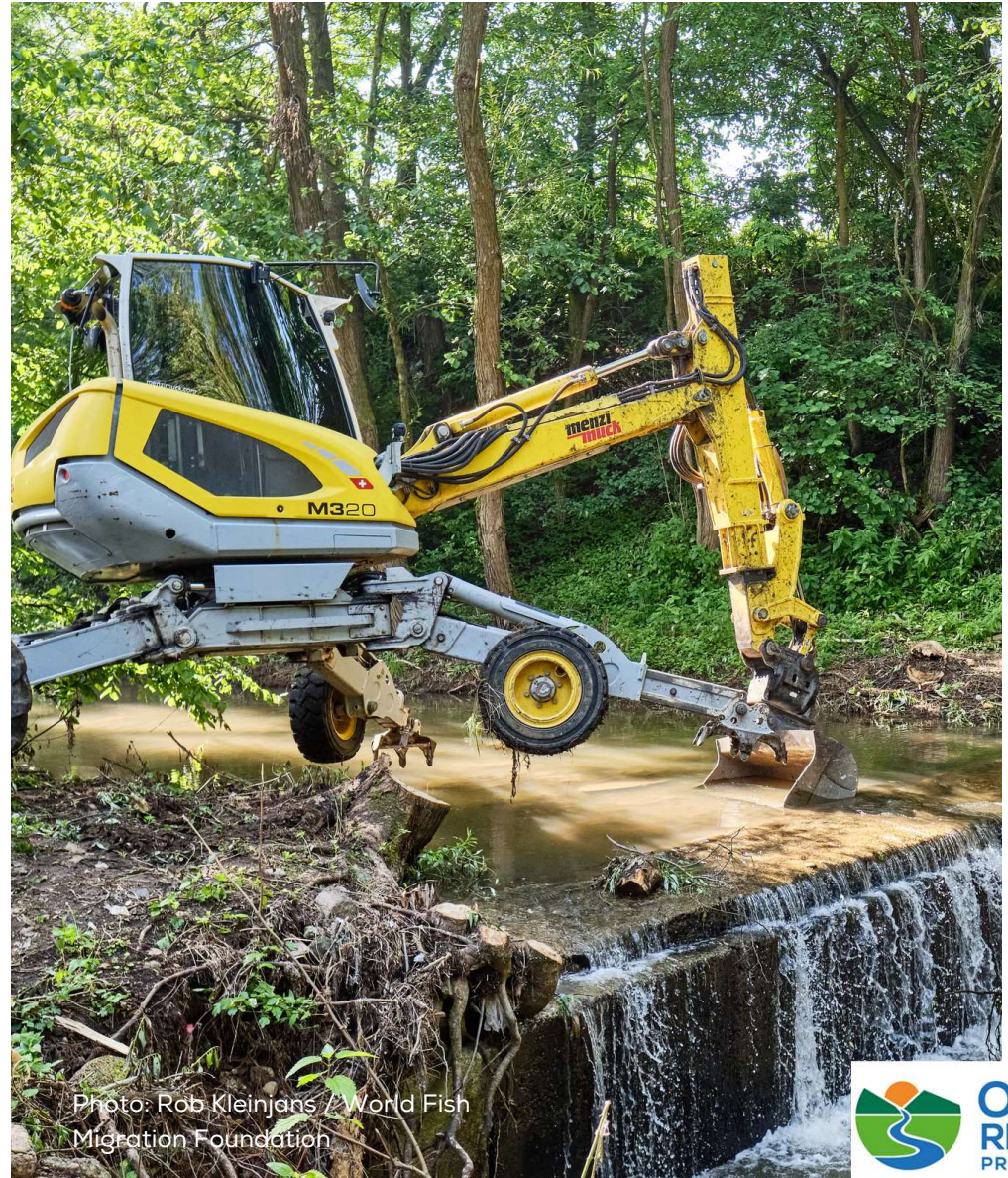
Programme supported small
dam removals

Enabling others to remove dams

Enabling the dam removal
movement

<https://openrivers.eu/grants/grant-types/>

About [Grants](#) Applications Projects



Direct support for small dam removal

Capacity Building & Advocacy

Catchment Development

Preparatory Work

Dam Removal

<https://openrivers.eu/grants/grant-types/>

About [Grants](#) Applications Projects



Grant Process and Eligibility

Eligibility: Organizations from Greater Europe

Process: Expression of Interest and full proposal; Two rounds per year

Evaluation: Grant Selection Panel

Adaptation: How can we improve?

Grant Cycle

May 27 2022 Call for EOI

July 8 2022 Deadline for EOI

September Deadline for Proposals

November Grant Awards

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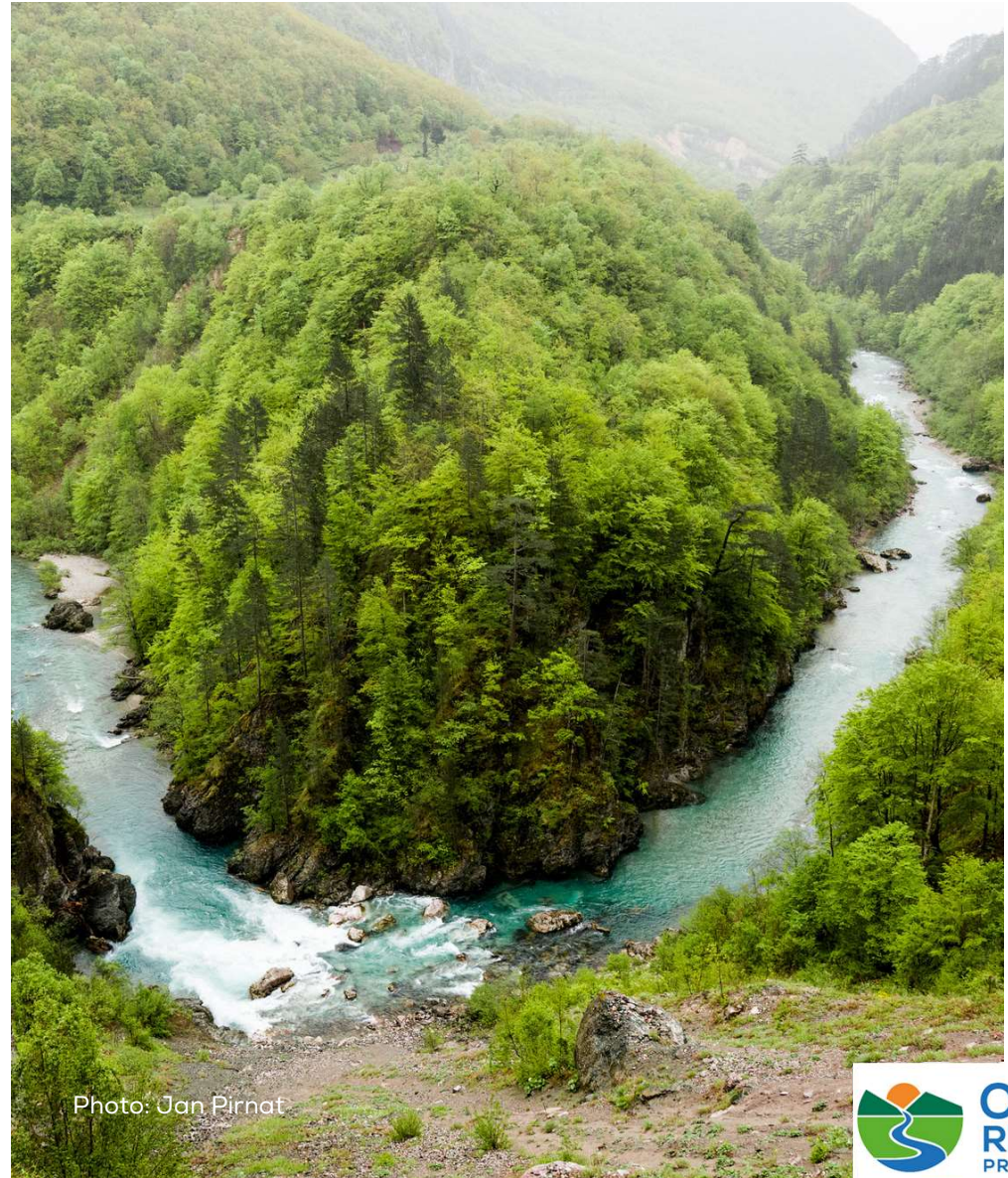


Photo: Jan Pirnat



Supported Projects

Is your country represented?



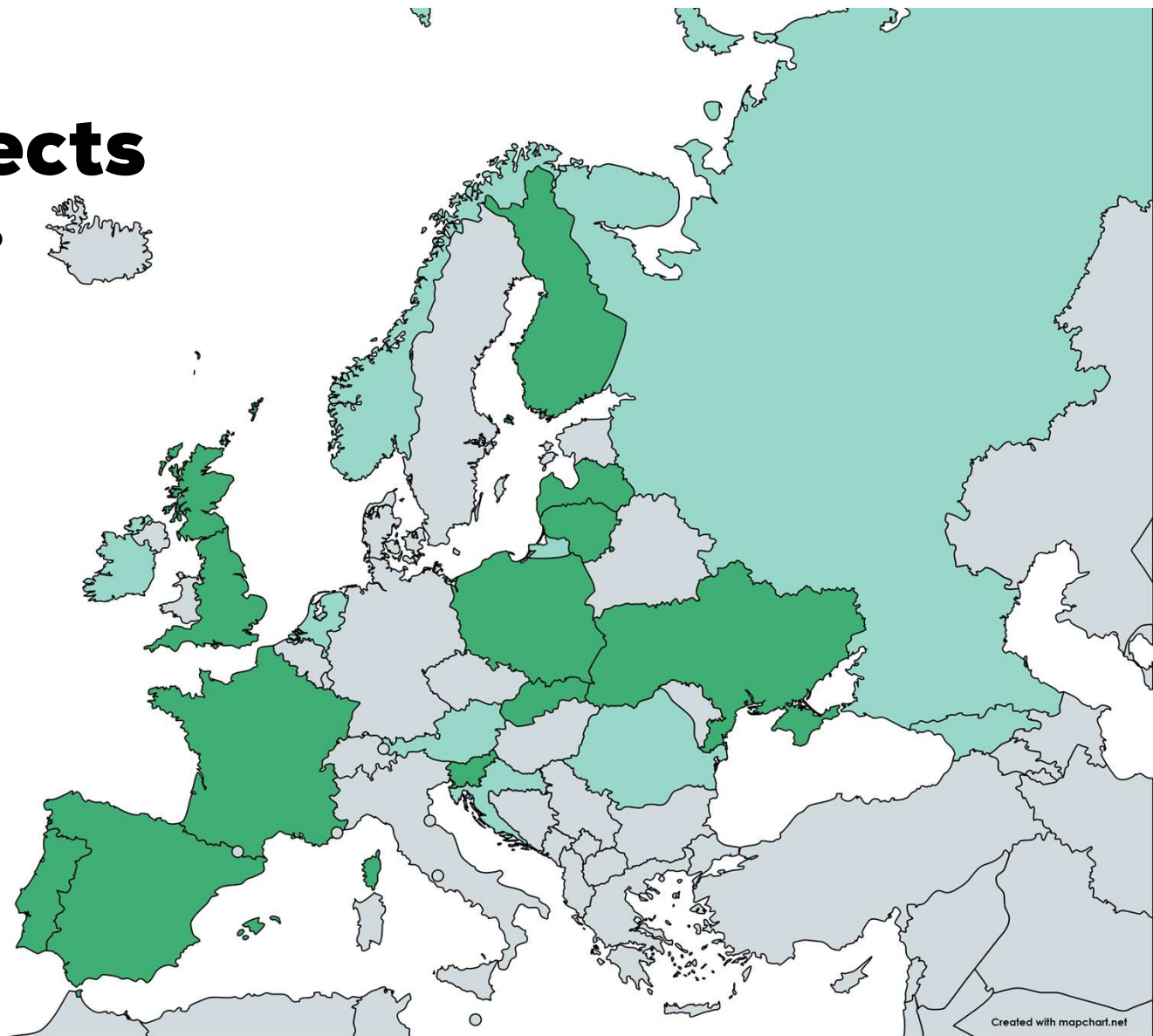
Countries	11
Organisations (grants)	12 (12)
Number of barriers removed	19
Amount awarded	€590,065
Km of river opened up	386 km

Open Rivers Project Locations

-  Funded proposal
-  Application Submitted

<https://openrivers.eu/open-rivers-programme-supports-19-new-dam-removal-projects-opening-up-386-km-of-river/>

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Galaxes Odeleite River, Portugal



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Bayurivka Dam Ukraine





Top Tips

Where is the dam?
Emphasis on small barriers
Ecological importance
Grant timeline ~12 months
Path to removal
What do you need to make
your project a success?
Photos!

<https://openrivers.eu/grants/application-resources/>

About Grants **Applications** Projects

10 tips for submitting a successful application

- 1 Follow the guidelines**
Use the Information Guide for Applicants as a resource to enhance your application and increase your chances of success.
- 2 Write specific and clear answers**
We receive many applications and are unable to review supplementary materials that are not requested. Please be clear and concise e.g. write in short sentence and paragraphs, list or bullet activities, outputs and outcomes. Try to avoid jargon or acronyms.
- 3 Tell us what is unique about your project**
Explain to us **why** your project is worth supporting and any special features that we should consider in our review.
- 4 Tell us how you selected your small dam(s)**
We are looking for evidence that small dams projects have been carefully selected to maximise ecological impact at the catchment level. We are less likely to support projects that appear to have been randomly selected without a justification. *Category A & B applications only**
- 5 Tell us why your project is ecologically significant**
Our aim is to support projects that will open up rivers and achieve a long-term positive ecological impact. Be sure to make it really clear how your project will benefit nature and why we should support it. *Category A & B applications only**
- 6 Give correct coordinates**
Provide the correct DMS coordinates for the barriers mentioned in the application! Double check them before submitting. *Category A & B applications only**
- 7 Submit high quality, clear photographs**
Reviewers check every photo submitted, please ensure they depict the barrier/area accurately. *Category A & B applications only**
- 8 Ensure the budget and schedule of activities are correct**
Ensure that the full timeframe is presented from the start to the completion of the project. Ensure that all costs are in Euros and provide a full breakdown of costs. The proposal is the basis for the Grant Award Letter, therefore, it is essential that all information, budgets, and activities described are accurate and final.
- 9 Is it value for money?**
Reviewers consider which projects will most effectively achieve our aims with the available funds. Costs should be justified and relevant. For A & B grants: low-cost projects with high ecological impacts will score highly. For C grants: explain why the proposal is significant and its impact for the European dam removal movement.
- 10 Submit on time!**
We will not extend the deadline or accept late applications.

What is **not** likely to score highly?

Projects that take many years to make an impact, expensive projects that have a low ecological impact and projects that do not meet the minimum eligibility criteria

Key take-aways

Next round opens May 27

Please attend June 9 webinar & Q/A

Tell your network

Reach out to us

Suggestions to improve accessibility?

<https://openrivers.eu/grants/application-resources/>

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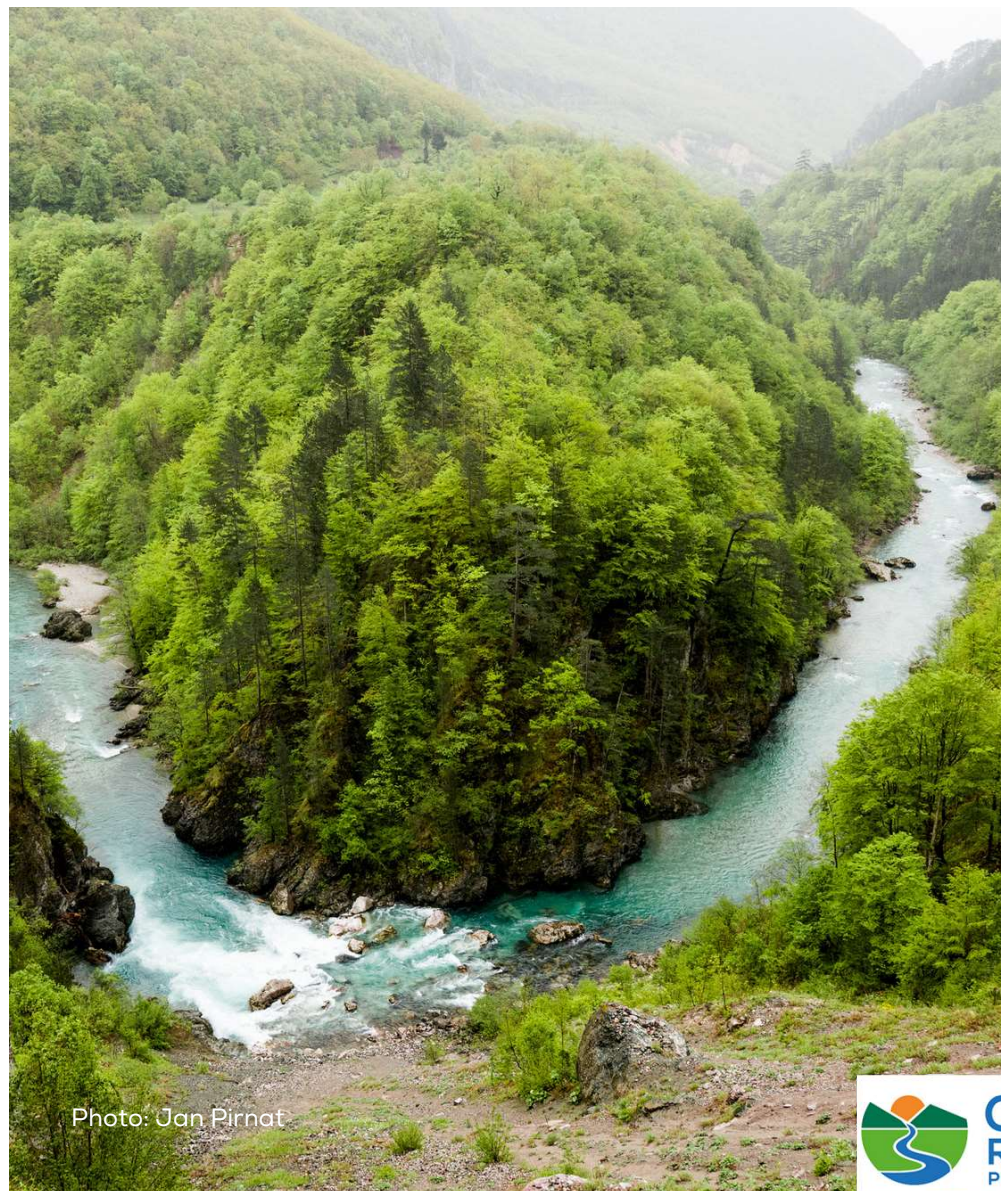


Photo: Jan Pirnat

Thank You



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[@openriversprog](https://twitter.com/openriversprog)



European Open Rivers Programme