

# **THE POWER OF A MOVEMENT**

## **SCALING UP DAM REMOVAL IN EUROPE**

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**World Fish Migration Foundation**

**May 2022**

# CONNECTING FISH RIVERS & PEOPLE



WORLD FISH MIGRATION  
**FOUNDATION**  
FOUNDED IN 2014







MAY 21, 2022

445 EVENTS IN 74 COUNTRIES

#worldfishmigrationday



WORLD FISH  
MIGRATION DAY



A wide-angle photograph of a large concrete dam on the Elwha River. The dam features multiple buttresses and a walkway at the top where two workers in orange safety gear are visible. In the reservoir behind the dam, a barge with a yellow excavator and other equipment is positioned. In the foreground, a powerful waterfall cascades over a rocky ledge. The surrounding landscape is rugged with steep, rocky banks and dense evergreen forests in the background.

# 2013 ELWHA RIVER, USA

© US NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



# Record number of dams removed from Europe's rivers in 2021

More than 239 barriers were taken down last year, helping to restore fish migration routes and boost biodiversity and climate resilience

May, 2022



# HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

## HOW DID THESE PEOPLE GET HOOKED?





# SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

EVERY KM A FISH  
IS BOUNCING ITS HEAD

© Petteri Hautamaa



# THE SOLUTION DAM REMOVAL

STARTING WITH  
>150.000 OBSOLETE &  
OLD BARRIERS  
IN EUROPE





# DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

## FOUNDED IN 2015



A wide-angle landscape photograph of a river valley. A large, rugged mountain peak dominates the background under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The river in the foreground is a vibrant turquoise color, winding through a valley with green fields and forests. Large, light-colored gravel bars are visible in the middle of the river. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

# OUR MISSION

## SAVE FREE-FLOWING RIVERS FULL OF FISH



# OUR VALUES

Passion

Committed

Positive

Inclusive

Connecting





**GROWING MOVEMENT**

**MAINSTREAMING**

**SCALING UP**

**CREATING THE BIG SHIFT**



# OUR STRATEGY

BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF PROUD  
RIVER PRACTITIONERS & ENABLE  
THEM TO REMOVE DAMS

*"I really value your amazing events, and work.. and the fantastic community you have established for knowledge sharing and support."*

Tania White, Environment Agency (UK)



# DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

**STRATEGY**  
 **2020  
2030**

**DAM REMOVAL EUROPE  
COALITION**

**SCALING UP!**

**WORKING TOGETHER & SHARING  
RESOURCES TO RESTORE RIVERS**

**>25.000 km FREE FLOWING RIVERS**

**[WWW.DAMREMOVAL.EU](http://WWW.DAMREMOVAL.EU)**



# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE



**30.000 HYDROPOWER SITES**

**>150.000 OLD & OBSOLETE BARRIERS**



# UPSCALING COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL CHANGEMAKERS  
→ Initiate network, select the frontrunners to take action,
2. (INTER)NATIONAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOPS  
→ Knowledge impulse, excitement, need for dam removal, roadmap
3. SET UP PILOT PROJECTS  
→ Select quick wins, support prioritization, funding & policy process
4. REMOVE DAMS BY PRACTITIONERS  
→ Proof that it works, proud practitioners, international showcases
5. CELEBRATE TOGETHER  
→ Highlight projects, proud people, recognition/movement



# EVERY COUNTRY NEEDS A SUCCESS STORY

## LITHUANIA

A black and white photograph of four young women standing together outdoors, smiling and posing for a photo. The woman on the far left is wearing glasses and a denim jacket. The woman in the center has her mouth open in a joyful expression. The woman on the far right is holding a large bag. They are all looking towards the camera. In the background, there are buildings and a sign that says "KAVINĖ".

# DEVELOPING DAM REMOVAL POLICY IN 3 YEARS





LITHUANIA





# CROWD FUNDING



<http://crowdfunder.com/team/re-fiet-dam-removal-europe>





# REMOVE DAMS / CREATE SHOWCASES

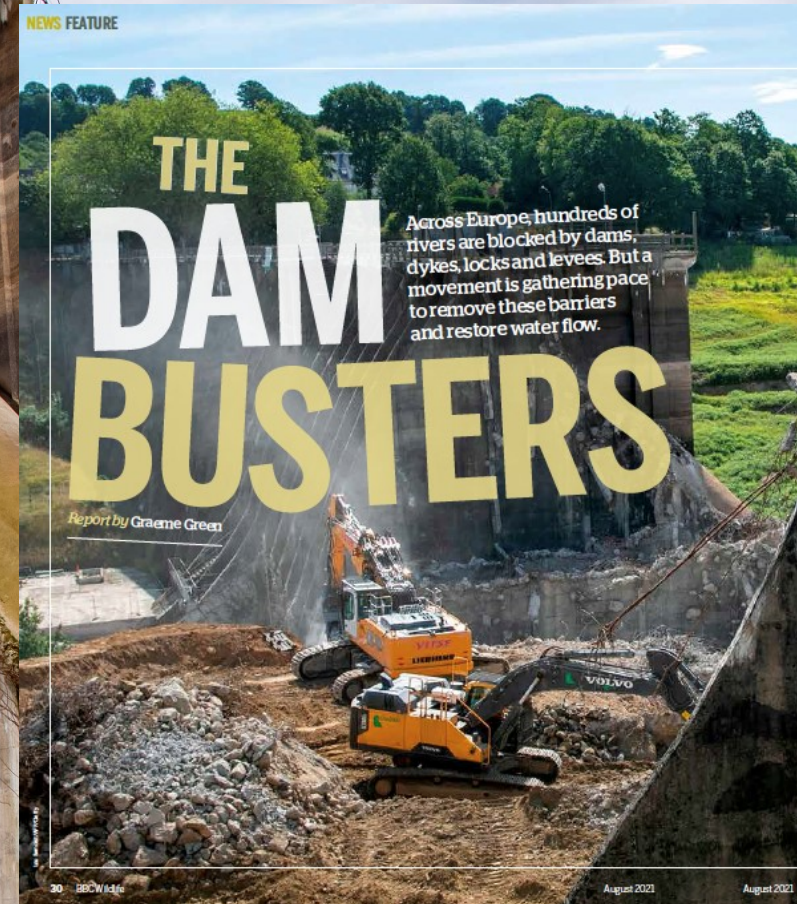
MOST ACTIVE DRE PARTNERS





**INITIATE INTERNATIONAL  
PRESS ATTENTION**

**YOU ALL HAVE UNIQUE  
STORIES TO TELL**



**BBC WILDLIFE MAGAZINE**



**The  
Guardian**

## 2022 MEET TORE SOLBAKKEN

Norway blows up  
hydro dam to  
restore river  
health and fish  
stocks

January, 2022

















# SHARE RESOURCES & TEMPLATE PROCEDURES

- PROVIDE HELPDESK
- MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS / SOCIAL MEDIA
- SHOWCASE BEST PRACTICES / COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

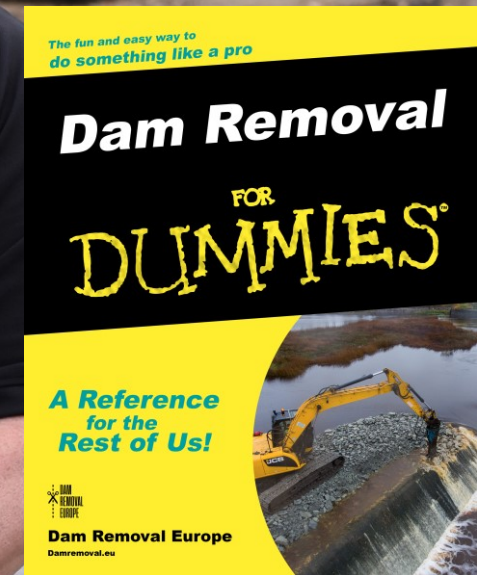
[www.damremoval.eu/case-studies/](http://www.damremoval.eu/case-studies/)





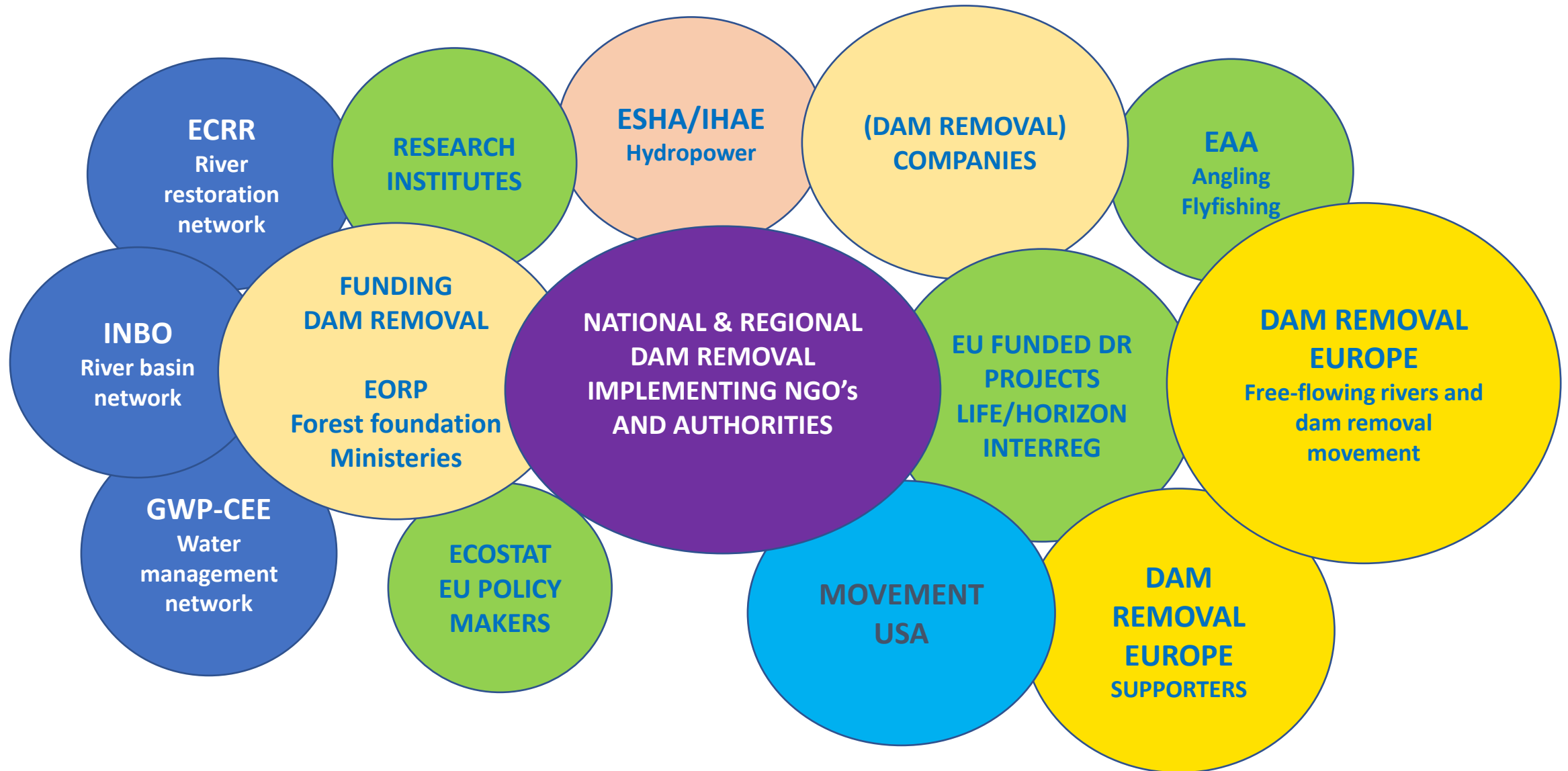
# SHARE RESOURCES & TEMPLATE PROCEDURES

(INTER)NATIONAL SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS  
ENGAGING WEBINARS / LIVE REMOVALS  
DAM REMOVAL CAFES  
TAILOR MADE COURSES (2022)  
FREE-FLOW CONFERENCE (2023)





# CONNECTING A GROWING NETWORK





# KEY RESULTS (2015-2021)

- GROWING INT. NETWORK WITH **7** FULLY BOOKED SEMINARS, **100+** PRESENTATIONS;
- INSPIRING DRE PARTNERSHIP WITH **7** PARTNERS & GROWING
- DRE MOVEMENT: **>3.000** PERSONS AND STRONG CONNECTION WITH USA NETWORK
- POLICY REPORT & DRE DATABASE WITH **>5.000** REMOVED OBSTACLES
- CROWDFUNDING: CATALYSED **>20** DAM REMOVALS;
- MAJOR POLICY CHANGE IN **3** COUNTRIES (FINLAND, LITHUANIA & SWEDEN);
- EU BIODIVERSITY TARGET: **25.000 km** FREE FLOWING RIVERS
- WEBSITE WITH **>40** SHOWCASE PROJECTS, **100+** REPORTS & ARTICLES;



# STATUS IMPLEMENTATION DAM REMOVAL

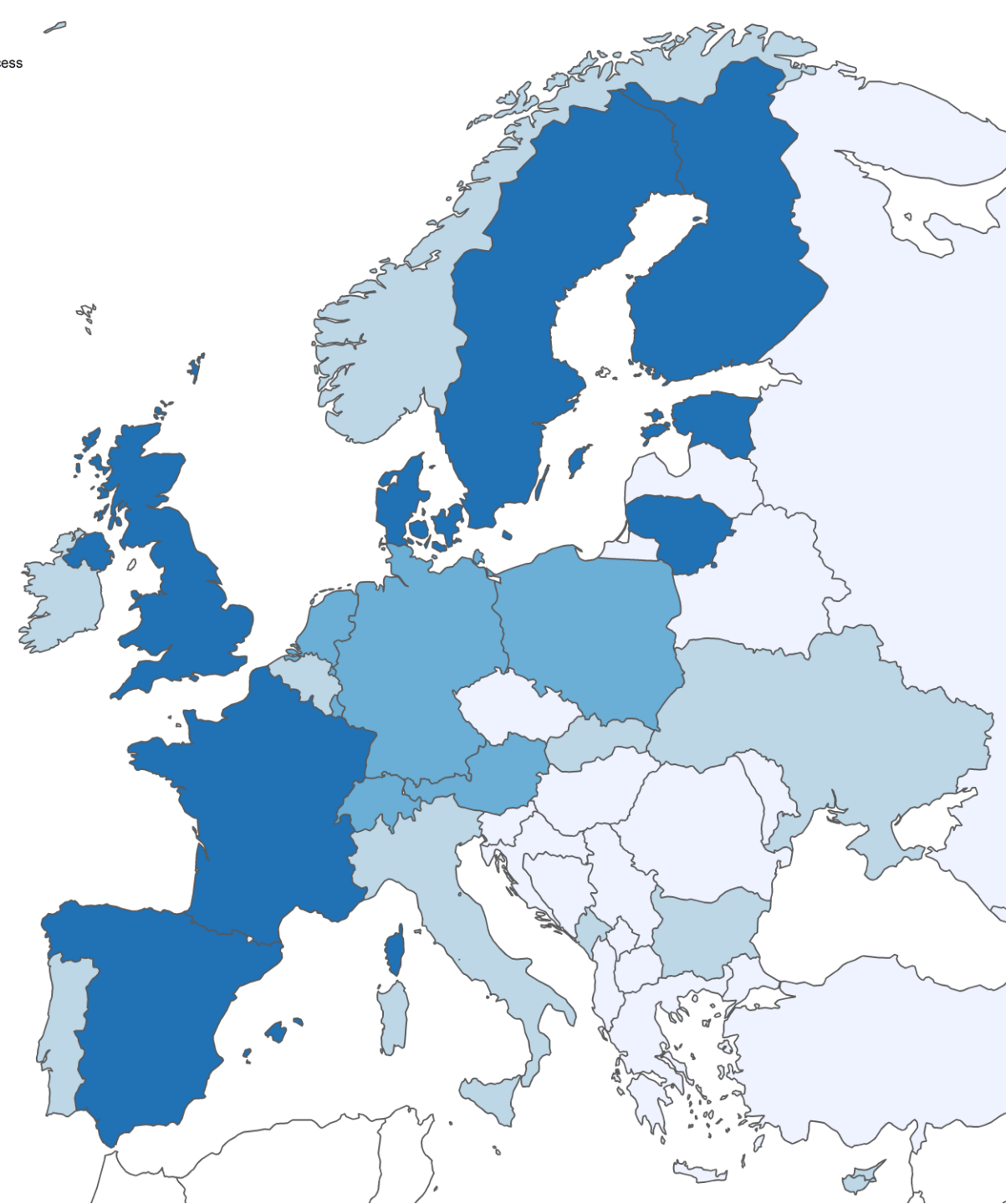
**7 COUNTRIES**

**IMPLEMENTED DAM REMOVAL  
AS A RIVER RESTORATION TOOL**

**Controversial topic!**

**Quote from expert in Portugal:**

*"I think that Dam Removal is not in the mental agenda in Portugal, yet. It's a long and hard way to go".*







# TIME TO SCALE UP!

## THE MORE SUPPORT THE FASTER IT GOES!

ForestPeace  
Foundation



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®  
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.



Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat









