



Dear colleagues,

As we progress into summer, momentum for river restoration continues to grow across Europe. This newsletter highlights a wide range of news, from the recent DRE Workshop in Bosnia to the latest DR guidelines. This edition includes resources, the latest events, and updates from Dam Removal Europe. 🌊



New Guidance to Support River Restoration Under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation!

The guidance developed by The Nature Conservancy provides a practical, step-by-step methodology to help authorities, river basin managers, and stakeholders identify river stretches where restoration can deliver the greatest benefits for biodiversity while contributing to the Nature Restoration Regulation's freshwater restoration targets. By combining ecological value, river typology, and restoration potential, the framework supports science-based prioritization of restoration actions.

The publication aims to accelerate efforts to restore Europe's rivers, including through the removal of barriers and the reconnection of fragmented river systems across Europe.

[Read the guidance here!](#)



A New Guideline for Romania is Published!

Romania is taking important steps to restore its rivers, with the country's first barrier removal project now underway and several more in development. Momentum is growing to reconnect rivers, restore biodiversity, and improve freshwater ecosystems.

To support this, we have published the guideline on Freeing Romania's Rivers, with contributions from Fauna & Flora and WWF-Romania. The guideline provides practical guidance for planning and delivering barrier removal projects, from planning to implementation.



[Read it here!](#)

A New Guideline for Greece is Published!

Barrier removal efforts in Greece are increasing, with various initiatives underway. These include mapping river barriers along the Sarantaporos River, a pre-demolition project targeting an irrigation

dam in the Peloponnese, and an initiative focused on four barriers on the Agios Germanos River. These projects highlight ongoing progress in enhancing freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity throughout Greece.

To support this growing movement, we have created, with support from MedINA, the Guideline on Freeing Greece's Rivers. This is the last of a four-part series developed for the Scaling up dam removal: implementation plan for South-Eastern Europe, funded by the European Open Rivers Programme.



[Read it here!](#)



Masterclass on Barrier Removal as a Nature-based Solution

In July, we examined the increasing importance of barrier removal in Europe and its links with Nature-based Solutions, including biodiversity recovery, climate adaptation, and ecosystem resilience. Led by Miriam Colls Lozano from the University of the Basque Country, the session focused on the question, "How can river barrier removal and Nature-based Solutions work together to restore healthier, more resilient

ivers?" It proved to be very insightful, with engaging questions from participants and a lively discussion afterward.



[Watch the masterclass here!](#)



Closing the DRE SEE Project: Three Years of Collective Action

As we finalise the Dam Removal Europe South-Eastern Europe (DRE SEE) scale up project, we are taking a moment to reflect on what this three-year collaboration has achieved. Across the region, 36 funding applications have been submitted, 52 additional projects are in the pipeline, and 79 barriers have been identified as potential removal sites. Through events, training, national roadmaps, technical support and knowledge exchange, the project has connected more than 2,200 people and 740 organisations.

These results belong to the entire network. We warmly thank the Open Rivers Programme for its support, as well as all project partners, national teams, experts and practitioners who contributed their time, knowledge and commitment. Although the formal project is ending, the partnerships, roadmaps and removal projects developed through DRE SEE will continue to strengthen the movement for free-flowing rivers across South-Eastern Europe.



Strengthening the river restoration movement: Dam Removal Workshop in Bosnia

From 29 June to 3 July 2026, 30 river restoration practitioners and dam removal specialists representing 22 countries gathered in Tara, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to develop national roadmaps for their respective regions.

Supported by ORP, the University of Eastern Finland, WWF Netherlands, WWF Finland, and WWF International, the initiative invited key participants from across Europe to share knowledge and practical experiences on scaling barrier removal efforts in their regions.

For WWF Netherlands and the DRE South-Eastern Europe network, the workshop represented a crucial step from awareness towards sharing experiences, building community of practice and gaining useful knowledge to identify priority actions from building the movement, policy advocacy to fundraising and removing barriers.



The Fly-fishing Event in Mostar!

In June, WWF, Dam Removal Europe, The Nature Conservancy and FIPS-Mouche launched a new effort in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to engage Europe's fly-fishing community in advocating for river barrier removal and future removal initiatives.

Around 120 fly fishers from approximately 20 countries participated in the event, with each country represented by a team of five to six people. The initiative received very positive feedback and inspired several national teams and individual fly fishers to become actively involved in the barrier removal movement.



The new AMBER Barrier Tracker App V2 is now available!

Blue Rivers Foundation has launched an improved version of the AMBER Barrier Tracker, helping citizens, researchers, and river enthusiasts map river barriers across Europe and contribute to the growing AMBER Barrier Atlas.

What's new?

- Improved geolocation
- Lateral barrier categories
- Expert mode with additional questions
- Enhanced web platform

Every observation helps fill critical data gaps and improve our understanding of river fragmentation across Europe.

 Available now for Android, with iOS coming soon.

Blue Rivers Foundation **AMBER**

DISCOVER THE NEW AMBER BARRIER TRACKER APP V2

Help map river barriers across Europe

LET IT FLOW

Reconnecting European rivers, the smart way.

IMPROVED GEOLOCATION

NEW LATERAL BARRIER

EXPERT MODE

UPDATED WEB PLATFORM

GET IT ON Google Play

AVAILABLE NOW
iOS coming soon

[Download it here!](#)



Removing every barrier advances healthier rivers, increased biodiversity, and stronger communities. As river restoration gains momentum throughout Europe, we are thrilled to witness new projects, partnerships, and opportunities arising within the network.

Thank you for joining us on this journey! Together, we are enabling rivers to flow freely once more.

The Dam Removal Europe Team

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