



Dear colleagues,

As we head into summer, momentum for river restoration continues to grow across Europe. From record-breaking barrier removals and new practical guidance to media highlights and upcoming events, this edition brings together the latest developments, resources, and opportunities from across the Dam Removal Europe network. 🌊

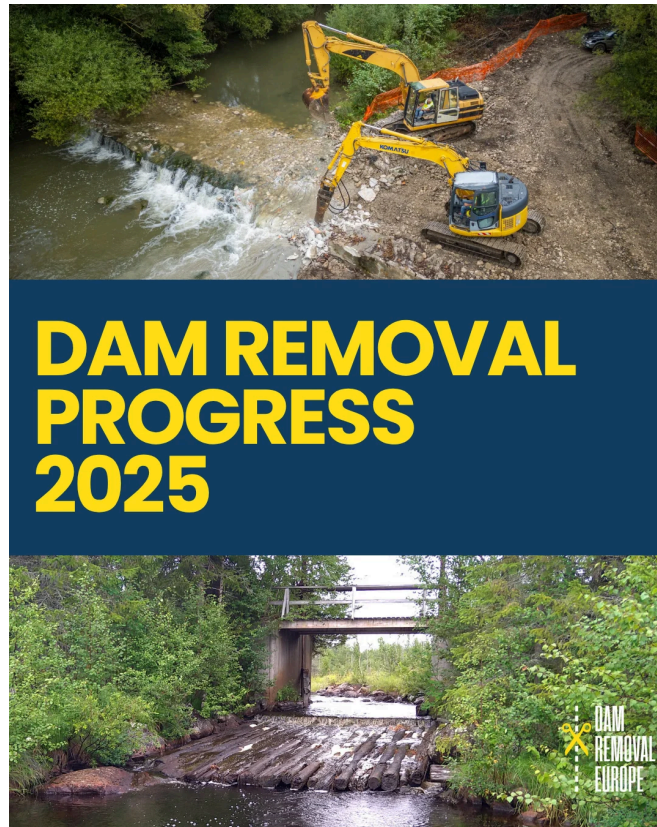


A Record Year for River Restoration in Europe

DRE Annual Report 2025: More than 600 barriers removed!

The new Dam Removal Europe report is now available. According to the report, the river restoration movement reached a new milestone in 2025, with at least **603 river barriers removed across Europe**. These efforts restored connectivity along more than **3,740 km of rivers**, making 2025 the most successful year on record for barrier removal in Europe.

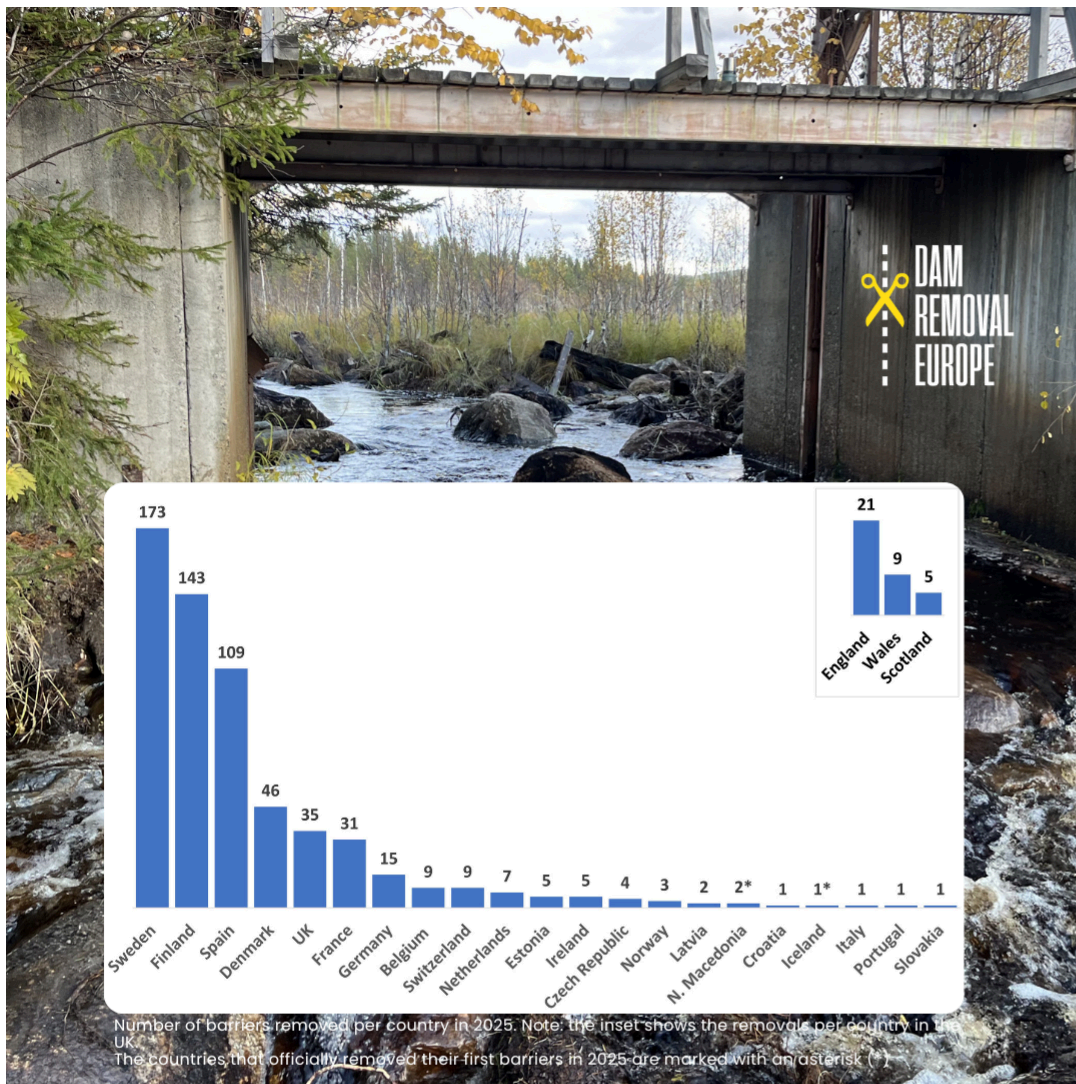
The report showcases the growing scale and impact of these restoration efforts and demonstrates that large-scale change is not only possible but already well underway!



[Read it here!](#)

International media spotlight barrier removal

Barrier removal continues to attract growing international attention. Over the past month, major media outlets including [The Guardian](#), [CNN](#), [National Geographic](#) and [Mongabay](#) have featured the new annual report highlighting the benefits of reconnecting rivers and removing obsolete barriers.



New guideline for restoring river connectivity in Slovakia!

Across Slovakia, many rivers remain fragmented by obsolete barriers that disrupt fish migration, sediment transport, and the natural dynamics of river systems. This new guideline is designed to support practitioners, organisations, public authorities, and local communities working to restore river connectivity and healthier freshwater ecosystems. 🐟

Removing obsolete barriers is one of the most effective ways to revive rivers, helping to restore natural processes, improve biodiversity, reduce habitat fragmentation, and increase ecosystem resilience. The

guideline provides practical support throughout the barrier removal process, offering valuable knowledge and tools for those seeking to reconnect Slovakia's rivers and create healthier freshwater ecosystems for both nature and people.



[Read it here!](#)



Watch Recent Barrier Removal Events

Recordings now available from live events in Italy, Sweden and Cyprus! Recent live events celebrated successful barrier removals:

- **Sicily, Italy.** Hear from Collettivo Rewild Sicily, CIRF and University of Salerno as they present the latest barrier removal efforts in Sicily
- **Jönköping, Sweden.** Learn about a recent barrier removal project led by Jönköpings Fiskeribiologi AB
- **Cyprus.** Discover the Phragmographysis project with Terra Cypria

Live event in
Sicily!

Live event in
Sweden!

Live event in
Cyprus!

Explore all recordings and stay up to date with the latest restoration stories from across Europe on the [DRE YouTube channel!](#)



Barrier Site in Sicily © Mathia Coco

Upcoming live event from Romania!

Join us next Monday, **June 8, at 11:00** CET for our next live barrier removal event from Romania.

Watch it live!



Funding opportunity: Open Rivers Programme call now open

Applications for the [summer 2026 Open Rivers Programme](#) funding round are now open. The current call launched on **1 June**, and applications can be submitted until **26 June at 13:00 CET**.

If you are planning a barrier removal project, this is an excellent opportunity to secure support for your work.

Key dates and application information are available below:

SUMMER 2026 CALL

Open call for applications	1st June 2026 13:00 CEST
Q&A webinar with the Programme's team	4th June 2026 13:00 - 14:00 CEST
Deadline to submit applications	26th June 2026 13:00 CEST
Application decision announcement	Mid-November 2026
Expected project start date	End of November 2026

For more information!



Every barrier removed is a step towards healthier rivers, richer biodiversity, and more resilient communities. As momentum for river restoration continues to grow across Europe, we are excited to see new projects, partnerships, and opportunities emerging across the network.

Thank you for being part of this journey! Together, we are helping rivers flow freely again.

The Dam Removal Europe Team



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