



Dear colleagues,

Spring is bringing new momentum across the DRE network, with fresh resources, upcoming events, and new opportunities to connect and take action for healthier, free-flowing rivers across Europe. 🌊



New guideline: Freeing Croatia's Rivers

We're happy to share "**Freeing Croatia's Rivers: A Step-by-Step Guide to Barrier Removal**", a practical new resource for anyone working to restore river connectivity in Croatia. The guide provides practical steps and key insights to help navigate barrier removal processes and support restoration action on the ground.

Developed for practitioners, NGOs, public authorities, and local changemakers, this is the **first of four guidelines** being produced through the DRE SEE project, funded by the Open Rivers Programme.



[Read it here!](#)



New case study: Barrier removal restores Sweden's Älgån River

In autumn 2025, an obsolete concrete bridge, a stone dam, and an undersized culvert on Sweden's Älgån River were replaced with a 4-m-wide steel vault bridge, restoring fish passage for the first time in decades. The removal works were executed by Jönköpings Fiskeribiologi have reconnected this tributary of the Nissan River, with the first trout expected to pass through the restored site soon.



© Jönköpings Fiskeribiologi AB

Read more about the case study!



Call for Open Rivers Programme Grant Application : starts 1st of June

The [next call for grant application](#) of the Open River's Programme starts on the 1st of June. Until 26th of June, you can submit your application!

Check below for important dates:

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	26 th June 2026 13:00 CEST
Application decision announcement	Mid-November 2026
Expected project start date	End of November 2026

For more information!



World Fish Migration Day on 23rd of May

With just a couple of weeks to go, preparations are underway for this year's edition under the theme *"We Are River People"*, celebrating our shared connection to healthy, free-flowing rivers.

Last year, more than **300 events across 77 countries** came together in this global celebration, and there's still time to be part of it. You can:

- Host your own event
- Join an existing event in your area
- Share the campaign with your network
- Encourage others to participate

Whether it's a field visit, workshop, clean-up, film screening or online talk, every contribution matters. You can register now and update details later. The [Campaign Toolkit](#) is available to help you get started.



Register your event here!

Host a Dambusters screening

A great way to take part is by organising a screening of the newly relaunched Dambusters documentary, which tells powerful stories of river restoration and dam removal from across Europe.

Watch it
here!



A lot is happening around water protection, and you can help!

Nature Restoration Plans are due on **1 September**. These will decide which rivers will be restored over the next decade, so now is your chance to get your barrier removal into them!

See how your country is doing!

Last year, the European Commission announced its plan to review and [revise the EU Water Law](#). As part of this process, a [Call for Evidence](#) was launched to gather citizens' opinions, which DRE shared in its last update.

We wanted to THANK YOU for the overwhelming support you expressed for the Directive. This level of public engagement sends a clear and powerful signal to European policymakers. [We only have the coming months to oppose this revision.](#) **Talk to your members of parliament, administrative representatives and allies, and urge them to keep our water laws strong.**



Why remove a dam?

Removing obsolete barriers is one of the most effective ways to restore river health. From reconnecting habitats and improving fish migration to increasing climate resilience and benefiting local communities, dam removal creates lasting positive change.

Discover the **top 10 benefits** and explore real examples from across Europe:



Read more about it here!



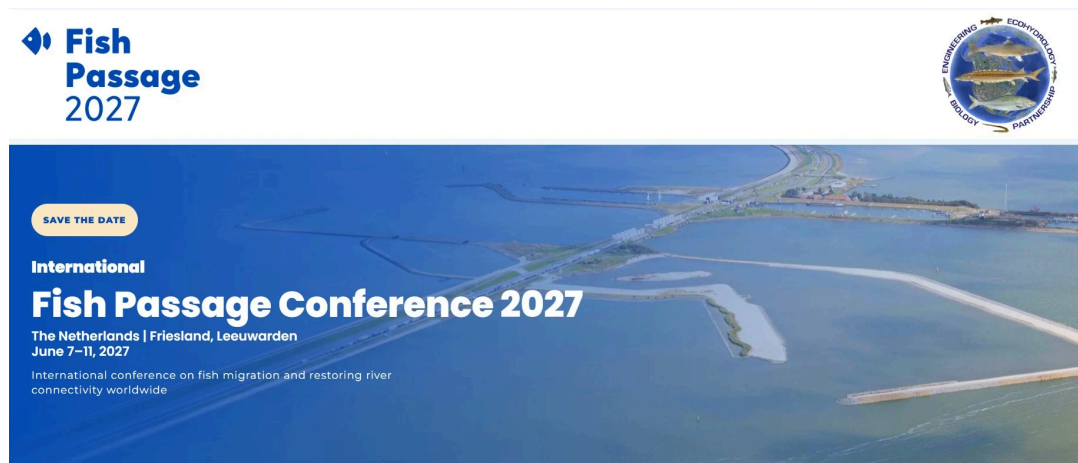
International Fish Passage Conference 2027

 Save the date: 7–11 June 2027

 The Netherlands | Leeuwarden

The world's leading conference on fish migration and river connectivity returns in 2027, bringing together scientists, engineers, policymakers, and river managers from across the globe.

The [International Fish Passage Conference 2027](#) is a key platform for international collaboration, focused on advancing fish passage solutions and restoring aquatic connectivity to support healthier, thriving ecosystems worldwide.



Learn more about the conference!



Summer training opportunity in river restoration

Applications are now open for the Summer Training Course on River Connectivity Restoration in Bulgaria (14–17 July 2026), organised by Blue Rivers Foundation and Science for Nature, this hands-on course offers young professionals the opportunity to gain practical field experience, build new skills, and connect with others shaping the future of river restoration.



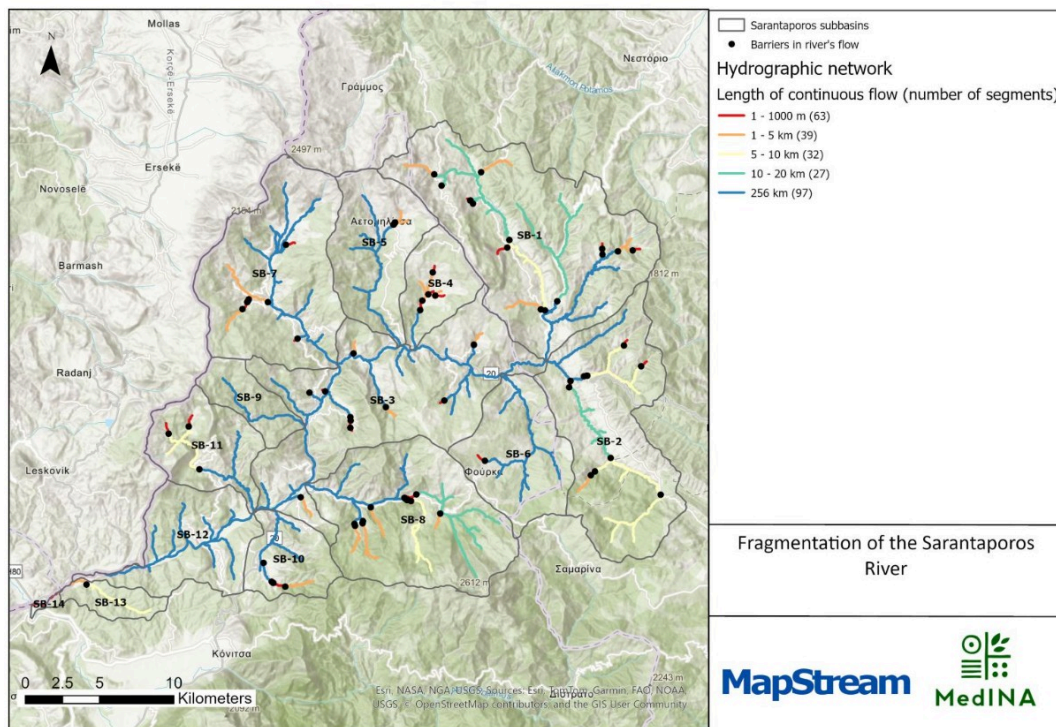
Learn more and register here!



Greece takes a major step toward Free-Flowing rivers

MedINA has completed the first-ever basin-scale [mapping of barriers in the Sarantaporos River basin](#) , with support from the Open Rivers Programme. This landmark achievement puts Greece at the forefront of river restoration efforts and aligns with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

The work has already driven national progress, with the Greek State committing to remove obsolete barriers in the coming months, an important step towards restoring free-flowing rivers across the country.



[More information here!](#)



Join the WalkingRivers Movement



On **May 16th**, celebrate rivers by joining people across Europe in walking along their local river..

[Join here](#)



Thank you for being part of this growing movement for healthier, free-flowing rivers. If you have updates to share, need support, or

would like to connect with the network, we'd love to hear from you.

Warm regards,

Dam Removal Europe team



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