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Introduction

Dear readers,

Now that the summer has almost come to an end, and autumn is nearing, many events are coming up, of which the 6th European River Restoration Conference in Vienna is a very relevant one. In this newsletter you can find the latest information about this event. For more information I refer also to the special website of this event: www.errconference.eu where more information about the program, organization, involved partners side events and field trip is provided.

Apart from this, lots of efforts have been made on the river restoration front. Under the ECRR umbrella the Community of Practice (CoP) organized a workshop, hosted by the Orbigo river basin, in León, Spain.

Furthermore as usual, you will find interesting articles about lots of activities and interesting events that will or have taken place. Herman Wanningen c.s. provided us with an article about the World Fish Migration conference 2015 and Michael Nones explains in his contribution the synergy between the EU Water Framework Directive and Flood directive. Also some experience of cooperation of Turkish and Dutch experts on the river Riva near Istanbul is illustrated.

In addition you will also find an article about the European Ramsar Conference, by our chairman. Finnish Environmental Agency SYKE prepared an article with their experience in practice with the application of the RESTORE WiKi tool. And, last but not least, in this newsletter an updated events calendar is added.

I wish you pleasant readings and hope to meet you in Vienna.

*Hil R. Kuypers
Secretary ECRR*



The Fish Passage 2015 international conference on river connectivity best practices and innovations, June 22-24, 2015

The Fish Passage 2015, International conference on river connectivity best practices and innovations will be held in Groningen, Netherlands, on June 22-24, 2015. This Fish Passage conference will be the first to be held in Europe and builds upon the success of the Fish Passage conferences held yearly in the USA (see details here). The 2015 conference is an international cooperation between North American Fish Passage organisation (USA), Karlstad University (Sweden), FAO-EIFAAC (Europe), Wanningen Water Consult (The Netherlands), Dutch Angling Association (The Netherlands), the 'More room for fish' project (The Netherlands), National Resources Wales, Institute of Fisheries Management (UK) and American Rivers (USA).

The main goal is to attract worldwide experts in order to share fish passage and river connectivity best practices with international professionals. For instance, within Europe this conference will serve to help evaluate, review and focus river connectivity goals for the European Water Framework Directive, which will be required for the determination of measures within European rivers basin plans in 2015.



Overall, Fish Passage 2015 promises to be an important international forum to exchange findings and experiences on topics related to river connectivity and fish passage. This international conference will be of interest to researchers, educators, practitioners, funders, and regulators who have an interest in advancements in technical fishways, nature-like fishways, stream restoration and stabilization, dam removal, road ecology, and the myriad of funding, safety, invasive species, climate change, and other social issues surrounding watershed connectivity projects.



This is a three-day conference with concurrent sessions in engineering, ecohydraulics, fish biology, management and social issues. Approximately 180 oral presentations from specialists from Europe, USA, South America, Africa, Asia and Australasia are expected. The conference will feature plenary talks, professional networking opportunities and poster sessions. Independently offered short courses and workshops will be available immediately before the conference (to be announced). In addition, three concurrent tours will be offered on Thursday, June 25 and a great social programme will be provided to ensure a balanced, enjoyable conference.

The registration and abstract submission will start on October 1, 2014 for those who would like to present a technical poster or presentation. We also welcome session proposals and exhibitors. We have several sponsor packages available and space for a total of 30 exhibitors. 10 exhibitor spaces have already been reserved.



For more details visit our website: www.fishpassageconference.com. You can also get in contact with Kerry Brink from the Coordination Team (fishpassageconf@gmail.com).



Links between the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive

The implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD, EC, 2000) requires a close collaboration between the EU Member States, the European Commission and other interested parties (such as Non-governmental Organizations, private citizens, etc). In addition, many of the European river basins are international and crossing administrative and territorial boundaries. Therefore, a common approach and understanding is crucial for a successful and effective application of the WFD. In order to address the challenges in a coordinate and cooperative way, a few months after the entry into force of the Directive, the Members States and the Commission agreed on a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS).

The Directive 2007/60/EC (EC, 2007) on the assessment and management of flood risks (Floods Directive, FD) shall be closely coordinated with the WFD. The CIS support the implementation of this Directive, through the Working Group F on Floods. In 2014, WG F published an analysis (EC, 2014) that had the aim to identify the potential synergies between the two Directives and to highlight the requirements for coordination and resolution of possible conflicts. Explicit references to the WFD are reported in some articles of the FD. The timetables provided by the Directives reach a common point in 2015, when the revision of the River Basin Management Plans (WFD) will be completed, while the Flood Risk Management Plans (FD) will be published. After 2015, the two Directives require a common six-year cycle planning, which could be helpful in reducing legal and planning efforts for the Member States.

First results of the HYTECH project, financed by the FP7, show synergies between the two Directives, but also the necessity of more studies for pointing out the importance of legislative backgrounds in river restoration projects. In this light, results of a renaturation project along the Spree River near Cottbus, Germany, will be analyzed in the near future. Coordination is necessary because both Directives are based on a catchment approach. The use of a common reference spatial area for biological quality and floods management can simplify the implementation of the monitoring measures and increase the effectiveness of the resources. Measures developed under a Directive can have effects on the requirements of the other: coordination provides an opportunity to identify multiple-purpose measures, with sensible reduction of costs. An integrated approach can simplify the data collection and the involvement of interested parties, by presenting available information to the public into one single place. Restoration measures adopted to reduce floods risk (aim of the FD) could have benefits for water quality, nature and biodiversity, regulating water flow and groundwater recharge (aims of WFD). Managing river ecosystems with the holistic approach suggested by these Directives is a big challenge for the Member States, which have the common aim of a better and sustainable environment for the future. In this regards, good practices, information and case studies should be sharing within the countries to continue the learning process and optimize the benefits of a coordinated approach to river basin management planning.

Michael Nones
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2010



Pre-work



2014



Post-work

References

- EC, 2000, Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy.
- EC, 2007, Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks.
- EC, 2014, Links between the Floods Directive (FD 2007/60/EC) and Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC). Technical Report–2014–078.



Beykoz Riva integrated environmental protection and development plan in Turkey.

With the development of the Quickscan Beykoz an initial but substantial step was taken towards the integrated protection and development of the Riva valley in Beykoz Municipality, Istanbul.

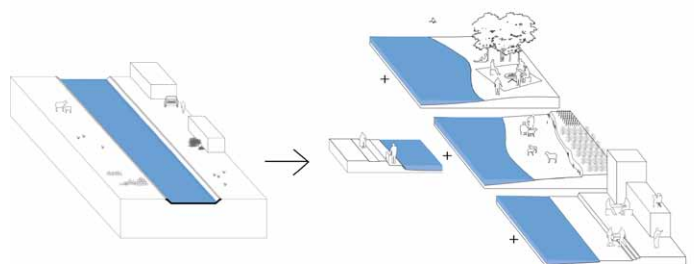
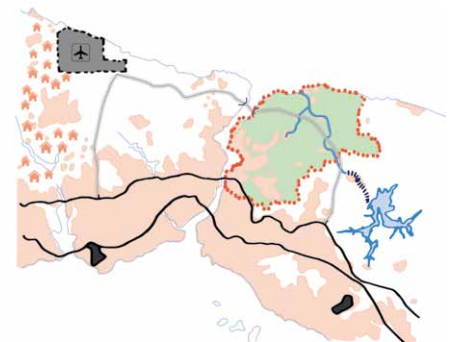
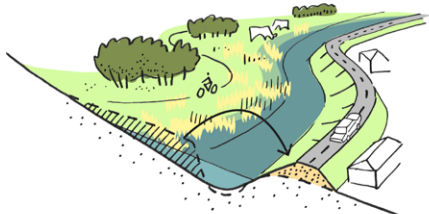
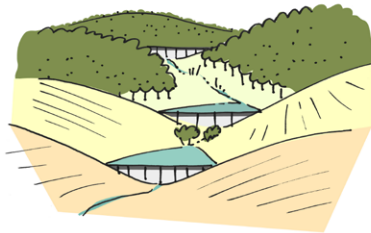
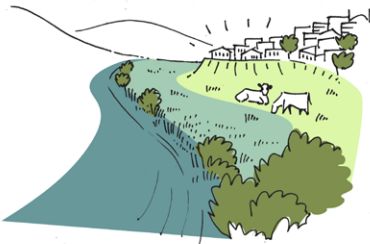
For several years the municipality of Beykoz is distressed by the regular flooding of the Riva river (length 32 kilometers). Throughout the Istanbul Metropolitan area, DSI and Iski —the Turkish State and City Water Works Authorities— are working on improving the unsafe situation in the valleys with a comparable technical solution: channelization of the rivers and streams in one generic profile made out of concrete and stone rubble, aiming at improving hydraulic discharge. Simultaneously with improving safety however, valuable natural as well as economic value and potential is unreparably lost in this process.



Looking for alternative solutions, Beykoz Municipality sought contact with H+N+S Landscape Architects and IABR. After mutual exploratory visits, the Turkish delegation gave H+N+S Landscape Architects the assignment to coordinate the design research for possible alternatives. Beykoz Municipality itself collaborates in the project, along with DSI and Iski, Dutch experts Taminau, Oliemans and Baran and the Belgian architects 51N4E.

Alternative water strategy

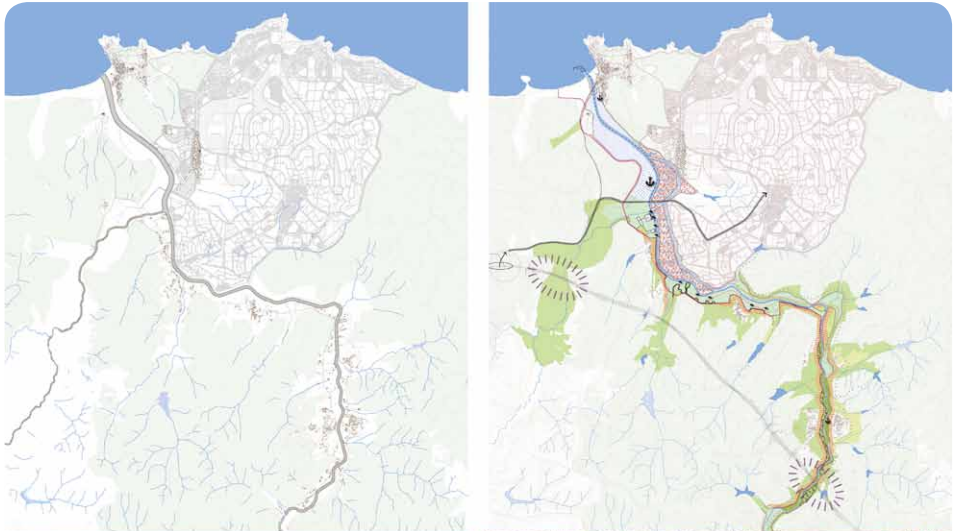
Together with the municipality and stakeholders from the area an alternative, more sustainable water strategy was developed, in which more space is given to the river. The QuickScan includes a range of measures which are deployed in different combinations to ensure flood safety in a 1:500 situation (the Turkish norm). In areas without vulnerable functions periodic inundation will be accepted. Upstream and in tributary valleys, the water is retained with small dams. In dry times these basins also serve to irrigate the lower agricultural area. Where necessary, the profile is broadened asymmetrically while maintaining and improving the ecological and recreational qualities. Finally, an alternative route to the water is offered at strategic places with green bypasses, which are typically in agricultural use and flow only in extreme situations.



Integrated Regional Development

Besides ensuring flood safety this plan is a step forward towards integrated regional development. The integrated approach goes beyond the technical aspects and strives to develop solutions for the water issues in conjunction with new plans for the revitalization of the agricultural areas and further ecological and recreational protection and development of the Riva basin. Opportunities for highly qualified organic agriculture and special urban development projects are created. In addition to the potential for the local tourism industry, the opportunities for recreation transcend the borders of Beykoz. The sustainable approach allows Beykoz to evolve into the green lung of the city of Istanbul.

During the design process, professionals from different Turkish government organisations were brought together in collaborative workshops. The partners laid the foundation for a unique project that introduces integral area development in Turkey. End of 2014 the next phase of the project will take place; in close cooperation with Turkish parties the team led by H+N+S Landscape Architects will start to work on the integrated water plan, as part of a master plan for integrated regional development of the basin of the Riva. The alternative water safety strategy will be further developed as well as a strategy for creating a sustainable and viable water system. The result of this process will be a tender document for implementation. For Turkey this will then be the first step in implementing the principles of integrated sustainable river restoration and realization of sustainable rivers.



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European Ramsar Meeting (ERM8), October 2014.

From 20-25 October the 8th European Ramsar Meeting will be held in Kufstein, Austria. "Wetlands for Our Future" is the theme as it is also for World Wetlands Day 2015 and COP12.

Proposed programme for the European Ramsar Meeting (ERM8) October 2014 in Kufstein, Austria (Tyrol)

DRAFT programme - status of 16 July 2014

October 2014	Monday 20	Tuesday 21	Wednesday 22	Thursday 23
8:30 - 10:15	<i>arrival of participants</i>	Transboundary Cooperation	Climate Change	EU Instruments
10:15 - 10:45		coffee-cookies	coffee-cookies	coffee-cookies
10:45 - 12:30		Agriculture	Ramsar Sites	National Plans & Regional Cooperation
12:30 - 14:00	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch
14:00 - 15:45	Opening	on-site visit river restoration, floods, hydropower	on-site visit karst, tourism, agriculture	Outreach & Partnerships
15:45 - 16:15	coffee-cookies	Schwemm Walchsee	Wilder Kaiser peatland path	coffee-cookies
16:15 - 18:00	River Basins	<i>(in parallel to visit Wilder Kaiser)</i>	<i>(in parallel to visit Schwemm/Walchsee)</i>	Strategic Planning

Public video showing and Ramsar Fair

The Meeting will have two evening programmes open to the general public, because wetlands are important for everybody (even for those who do not realize it yet). One evening will be dedicated to a public showing of a selection of poignant short videos (<10 minutes) on themes addressed by the Meeting. Participants are invited to submit their videos when registering for the Meeting, and the audience will choose the best one as part of an informal competition.

A second evening will be devoted to a public Ramsar Fair. An opportunity for participants, NGOs and other institutions to exhibit their posters and explain their activities, to set up a stand illustrating their project, to present and distribute their products - on paper, handicrafts, cultural, or locally produced, also for consumption in the form of drinks and food. Hopefully, this fair will be accompanied by some music or other cultural performance brought to Kufstein from different parts of Europe.

Aim of the Meeting

To bring together all European Ramsar focal points, including relevant experts from International Organisation Partners, NGOs and representing other sectors and administrations. To update each other on recent policy developments, exchange best practice and know-how, and to discuss common positions on the issues that will be negotiated during COP12 in June 2015 in Uruguay.

An interactive Meeting

The participants' survey of the 7th European Ramsar Meeting (ERM7) in Trnava 2011 stressed the importance of a facilitating atmosphere for bilateral discussions, exchange of experiences and ideas, and the usefulness to create a sense of common approaches and ownership across different regions in Europe. To achieve this, only restricted time will be devoted to short introductory presentations in plenary. The larger part of the Meeting will focus on interactive exchanges of information and discussions of ideas how to solve problems, followed by brief reporting back sessions to plenary.

The Meeting is structured into a number of sessions (100 minutes each) focusing on practical implementation questions related to key topics. After a brief introductory part, likely with 2-4 stimulating (<5 minutes) presentations, plenary sessions will split into smaller groups to address a number of key questions in an interactive way ("world café" structure), before briefly reporting back to plenary. This involves a certain amount of preparation and organisation by moderators and rapporteurs. Our Austrian hosts and the Ramsar Secretariat will support those volunteering to fulfil such roles.

The modular structure of the Meeting (as illustrated in the table above) will assure that it remains dynamic (no time to get bored). We want to keep on moving intellectually, from an assessment where we are coming from to practical management solutions (during indoor sessions and on-site visits), we want to discuss policy issues, clarify our needs to reach out and to overcome silo approaches, and explore practical ways how to work with others who can be of help.

For more information please contact : Tobias Salathé salathe@ramsar.org the Ramsar Secretariat



RiverWiki – sharing best practices

Jukka Jormola and Pinja Kasvio, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE

The RiverWiki is a database of river restoration cases all over Europe. It was created in the RESTORE – Life project and is now carried on by the European Centre for River Restoration and is technically supported by the River Restoration Centre (the RRC) and the Environment Agency (of English and Wales). Like all Wikipedia type databases, the purpose of the RiverWiki is that new cases can be continuously downloaded into it, with the help of national or regional river restoration centres. New information, like monitoring results, can be added in to existing cases. The RiverWiki already gives an overview of river restoration activities in Europe, even if some countries still are lacking good coverage. For practical reasons and also because of ongoing active work the majority of cases in the Wiki are now from Britain.

Watching cases in the RiverWiki is an excellent opportunity to get inspired by work which has been done and what is going on

The state and history of rivers differ a lot in different countries but the methods are principally the same all over. People who are interested or practically involved in river restoration can compare the approaches, methods and results to other regions and countries.

What is the advantage of a continuously updated database of river restoration cases? Anybody who wants to do something for rivers or brooks in his or her own surroundings needs some kind of knowledge to practically begin a restoration project. For the activities in Finland it has been crucial to see what is done in other countries, even if we have long been developing also our own approaches. Other countries, like Germany, Austria, Switzerland have given good examples of environmental engineering and measures which have been done with the help of good legislation. Denmark, after the LIFE project which practically founded the European Centre for River Restoration, published a good collection of cases in a small book. There was also a collection of cases in Britain. In Finland we

have a comprehensive internal database of water construction cases, including restoration. Before the RiverWiki, the only way to get knowledge of cases in other countries was to search them from books, magazines and later in the internet. Through the Wiki it is now easy to get information about best practices in new interesting themes like by-passes, compensative reproduction habitats and urban brooks with sustainable urban drainage.

The best way really to get acquainted with restoration cases is to go on site to see them. Seeing cases and then telling about your experience is most convincing for decision makers, to launch new projects with similar themes and reasons for restoration. Through the Wiki you can just practice virtual travelling but now it is easy to organize a real excursion, as exact location, photos, information of the restoration procedure and contact persons is provided. There is also a possibility to discuss or “chat” about the cases. The site is interactive and works as a platform for everyone! It also gives an opportunity to find new co-operation and partners to new projects.

In addition to just consuming the information in the Wiki, we also need new cases to be downloaded. Translating main points of restoration cases into the RiverWiki gives an opportunity to share experience in your country for a wider audience, but it is also possible to include cases in your own language for internal use. In a region or a country there might be special types of restoration cases, that have different standards from those in other countries. This should not stop you from adding those to the RiverWiki; it is not there to judge, but rather to show all the river restoration cases that exist. You therefore need not be very picky about what cases to include. The regional river restoration centre (like SYKE in the Northern area) will check the cases before the final publishing. It would be good to get an increasing collection of different restoration types from every country in the future.

<http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu/wiki/>

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Photo: Pinja Kasvio



Photo: Moten Bergan. Ilabekken Brook in Trondheim after restoration
Compensative habitat at the Ruppoldingen power plant, Switzerland

RESTORE partnership
RESTORE web site

Wiki navigation

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Case study: Wensum River Restoration Strategy

4.00 (one vote)

To discuss or comment on this case study, please use the [discussion](#) page.

Location: 52° 46' 53" N, 0° 57' 38" E

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- 9 Additional documents and videos
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Map data ©2014 Google 2 km

Left click to look around in the map, and use the wheel of your mouse to zoom in and out.



Events calendar For events in other continents please consult the website

Date/periode	Titel/issue	Location	Links
2-3 oct	NCR-days	Enschede; Netherlands	http://www.ncr-web.org
27-29 oct	6th European River Restoration Conference	Vienna; Austria	http://www.errc2014.eu
20-25 oct	EU RAMSAR conference	Kufstein; Austria	salathe@ramsar.org ;the Ramsar Secretariat
12-15, Nov	Euro- INBO 2014	Bucarest; Romania	http://www.inbo-news.org/inbo/papers-and-photos-of-past-events/article/europe-inbo-2014
22-25 June 2015	IS. RIVERS 2015	Lyon; France	isrivers@graie.org
23-25 June 2015,	Fish Passage 2015 Conference	Groningen; The Netherlands	http://www.fishpassageconference.com
30 june - 2 july 2015	REFORM Final conference	Wageningen; The Netherlands	http://www.REFORMRIVERS.EU
26-30 Aug 2015	6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration	Manchester, United Kingdom	www.ser2015.org



Call for articles

The newsletter of the ECRR should also be a way to share with one another what interesting work is being done, information about seminars or literature.

One way of doing this is by writing an article of any project, event or literature you may be acquainted with. Send this article (**maximum of 500 words**) to the secretariat of the ECRR at info@eccr.org.

We will take a close look to the content and if it is coherent with the philosophy of ECRR (ecological river restoration and sharing knowledge) your article will be published with pleasure in the next

edition (s) of the ECRR Newsletter.

The secretariat of the ECRR hopes to receive any article on ecological river restoration from any of its members

Free Membership ECRR

All who are interested in river restoration and sustainable water management are encouraged to join.

Members receive the ECRR newsletter approximately four times per year, and are the first to be informed about activities by the ECRR, its members and partner organisations.

To register, go to www.eccr.org, and click contact.

