

In this newsletter

XIV International Scientific/practical Symposium "Clean Water of Russia-2017"	2
Protecting our last wild French and European rivers through the "Wild River Site" label	4
Perspectives on Ecological Continuity: Natural heritage, History, Landscape and Renewable energy	6
Experiences of the Polish ECRR National River Restoration Centre	7
The Italian Centre for River Restoration (Centro Italiano per la Riqualficazione Fluviale – CIRF)	9
EUROPE-INBO 2017 (20-23 September 2017, Dublin, IRELAND)	10
"Winner of the UK River Prize 2017 – The Hampshire Avon"	11
European River Restoration Learning Hub Event	13
I.S. Rivers 2018 3 rd International conference; Integrative sciences and sustainable development of rivers	14
Event calendar 2017–2018	15



Editorial ECRR Newsletter



Dear reader,

Every time when we start to prepare the next newsletter we always have the feeling that it might be difficult to get a full range of interesting articles. This was also the case for this newsletter. But nevertheless, like always we decided to continue the preparation, because this costs some time and we also always experienced that during the preparation process new ideas for articles come up. This was now again the case.

Important is of course the news value of the article. In practice we have a few, for loyal readers' recognisable groups. Technical articles, often science based, demonstrated best practices of river restoration, announcements and reports of river restoration knowledge sharing events and news about the ECRR Network. The last at present with a series of articles of the River Restoration National Centres.

According to these experiences this newsletter is a very rich newsletter, with a wide variety of articles even within a certain group. The Polish and Italian River Restoration Centres have shared here the foundation, regular activities and future expectations of

different National Centres across Europe. In addition, this year an important technical event was the International Symposium on "Clean Water of Russia", which raised great expectations all across Europe. While the news from France about the Wild Rivers and the river continuity show interesting new developments with respect to the biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration. And the best practices part is filled in by the restoration of the river Avon, the winner of the 2017 UK Riverprize 2017.

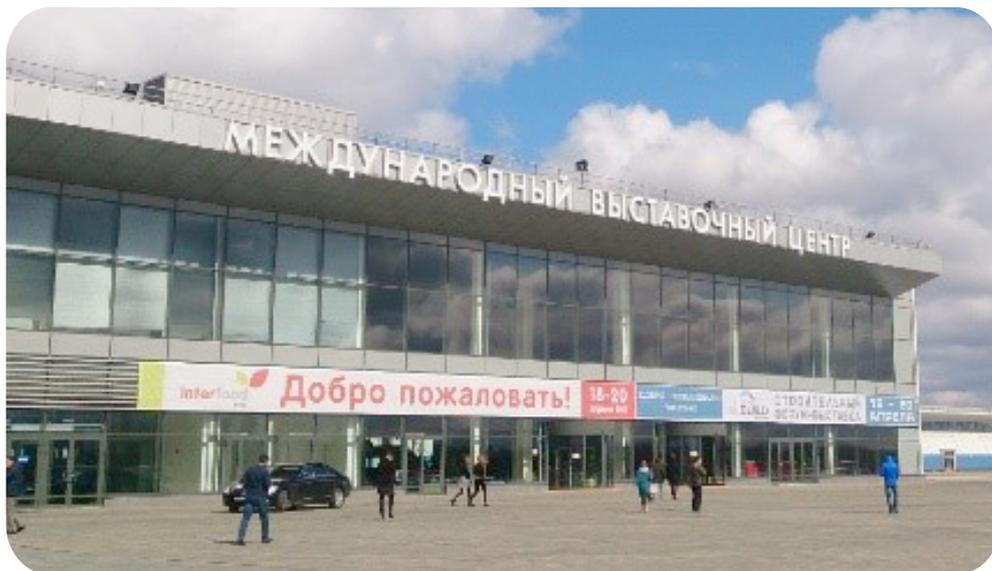
Concerning the events, there is a broad range of opportunities to share information with and learn from others active in the field of river restoration. From science, to policy, and to practice. We ask special attention for the fantastic initiative of the European River Restoration Learning Hub Event in Lyon, France at late August this year. Altogether much good news, maybe not all for everybody, but at least something for anybody.

We wish you a good reading of this newsletter!

*Bart Fokkens, ECRR and Wetland International
 Francisco Martinez Capel, CIREF
 Timur Pavlyuk, RosNIIVH*



XIV International Scientific/practical Symposium «Clean Water of Russia-2017»



Ekaterinburg-Expo Exhibition center



Nadezhda Prokhorova, Director RosNII VH, Russia

On April 18-20, more than 20 different sessions were held at the XIV Symposium «Clean Water of Russia - 2017». The symposium was organized by Research Institute RosNII VH with the support of the Federal Agency for Water Resources and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Sverdlovsk Region. This took place in Ekaterinburg at the Ekaterinburg-EXPO Exhibition Center. Within this framework of the present meeting representatives of the scientific community, business and government discussed the actual issues of implementation of the Water Strategy of the Russian Federation.

The Forum «Clean Water of Russia», which dates back to 1994, rightfully became one of the most authoritative stages to discuss the strategic management directions of the water economy sector, taking into account of solving the environmental problems and rational use of the resources.

This year at the XIV International Scientific and Practical Symposium «Clean Water of Russia-2017» great attention was paid to the scientific, economic, educational and cultural

aspects of the implementation of the Water Strategy 2020 of Russia. Representatives of the President's Office in the Urals Federal District, deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Sverdlovsk Region, the Federal Service of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare, leading scientists and water experts of the country, experts from 8 European and Central Asian countries took part in the events.

This symposium coincided with the Year of Ecology in Russia. Therefore, the plenary session, round tables and seminars of the forum were traced with the «red thread» issues of environmental safety, solving problems of natural resources protection and the improvement of the environmental quality.

We want to mention the workshop on «Ecological rehabilitation and restoration of waters» with the participation of experts from the European Center for River Restoration (ECRR) from Finland, Italy and the Netherlands. Approximately 70 participants were actively involved into the workshop developments. There were presentations of rivers and



Alexander Popov, RosNII VH, Russia



Giancarlo Gusmaroli, CIREF, Italy





Full house!



Youth projects presentations

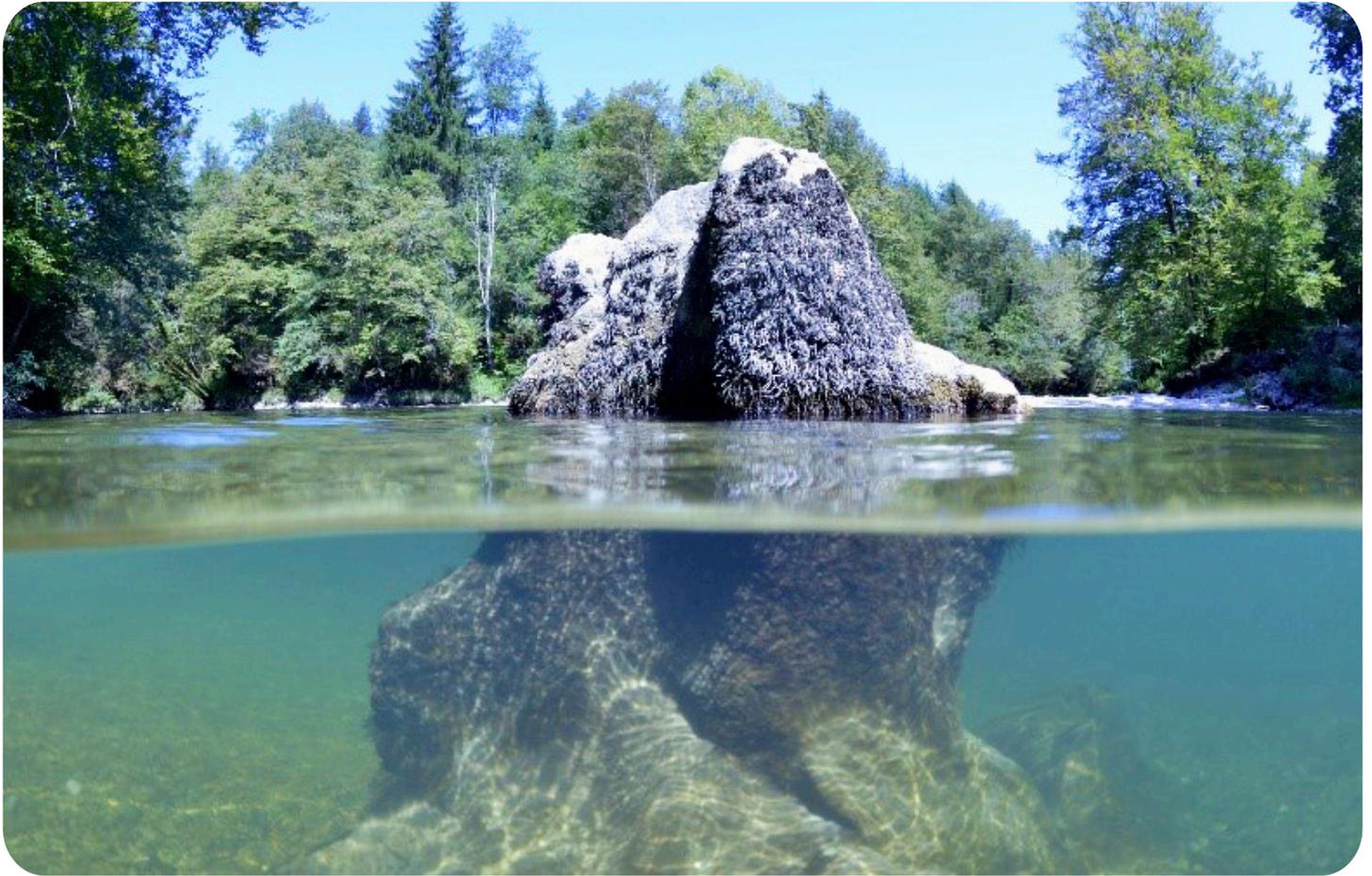
reservoirs restoration projects. For instance, we watched a French movie about dam removal on rivers and an animated cartoon about sustainable river flow management, with an explanation by Bart Fokkens. Twelve speakers from four countries touched the most sensitive items of ecological restoration of waters. Alexander Popov spoke about the new concept of water bodies restoration, that was developed in Russia since the beginning of this year. Transboundary river restoration achievements and failures in research programs between Russia and Finland were addressed in Jukka Jormola's presentation. A special point of view, full of philosophy and poetry, was presented by Giancarlo Gusmaroli about river restoration challenges and showcases in Europe.

The general outcomes of the workshop on waters restoration and rehabilitation showed increased interest of governmental entities and structures to develop institutional and instrumental aspects that will help to solve ecological problems of rivers and reservoirs. A comparative analysis pointed out that the Russian Federation makes its starting steps in the way of ecological restoration of waters, executing annually 3-5 new case studies of rehabilitation projects. The next, XV Symposium "Clean Water of Russia" will be held in 2019.

NB For more information, see the Symposium Resolution Report [Symposium Resolution Report](#)



Protecting our last wild French and European rivers through the "Wild River Site" label



Valserine River ©Yannick Gouguenheim

In 2007, EDF, Electricité de France, a major electricity producer in Europe decided to build a large dam on the Rizzanese River, in the southern part of Corsica. This Mediterranean water-course was one of the few intact French pristine rivers, with a strong biodiversity (endemic trouts, cistude tortugas, eels). White waters communities came to paddle there, from various European countries. Fishermen and hikers used to roam in its wild gorges and slopes. WWF, European Rivers Network (ERN) and local Corsican conservation organizations unsuccessfully opposed the work, supported by a rural community poorly informed on the values of this remarkable hydro-system. The project was completely ignoring the hydro damages perceived as being an ecological way to produce energy, because it is renewable which proves, in many well documented cases all over the world, untrue. Hydro is frequently black, not green.

Following the Rizzanese destruction, WWF and ERN launched an innovative "Wild Rivers" programme, intended to protect these last natural jewels. The goal was to promote, locally and nationally, the values and richness based on the intact biodiversity, the wilderness of pristine hydro-systems, with very low impacts of human activities, especially on hydro morphology. The idea got its inspiration from various foreign experiences, partly the American "Wild and Scenic River Act", the "Scientific Special Areas for Conservation" in Ireland, the

"Réserves aquatiques" in Québec and the "Tiers Sauvage" from the Conservatoire du Littoral in France. In 2011, a first colloquium was organized in Annecy and, in October 2014, a first river, the Valserine, in the Parc Naturel Régional du Haut Jura, was labelled, in the Rhône Méditerranée Water Agency. A new qualification, a new Wild Rivers Site label, going far beyond the "Very Good Ecological State" of the Water Framework Directive for our last free-flowing pristine rivers was made. This was mainly due to a decisive commitment of a local river basin fishermen organization, the "Groupement Valsemine", with a surprisingly strong support from the political authorities of the Ain Department, who were enthusiastic from the beginning.

After 9 years of hard work, the project is operational. The movement and its progressive structuration (a fund, the Wild Rivers Fund destined to collect private money, linked to ERN, a grassroot organisation which is able to get public subsidies) is supported by various private stakeholders, small companies, individuals, local NGO's, fishermen groups. It is also backed by public stakeholders (the Ministry of the Environment, the 6 French Water Agencies and the ex-Onema, now the French Agency for Biodiversity, Universities, the Ecole Centrale de Paris, many political bodies, such as the Ain Department, river's syndicates). In 2016, eight rivers had been labelled in





Artoise River ©Philippe Collet

France (Valserine, Dorche, Vezeronce, Beaume, Drobie, Artoise, Pic and Gioune) and a “Wild Rivers Network” created. Ten new rivers could be labelled in 2017.

The label “Wild River Site” was elaborated by an interdisciplinary Scientific Council. It is based on a series of 46 criteria grouped in 9 families, mainly: hydromorphology, water quality, biodiversity, stakeholders implication and visitors management. It is delivered to an applicant (a river’s syndicate, a Regional Park, a public body) for a whole river basin or, in most cases, for a minimum 10 km long river length by a recognized certificatory body, the Afnor (Association Française de Normalisation) for a 5 years long period. A

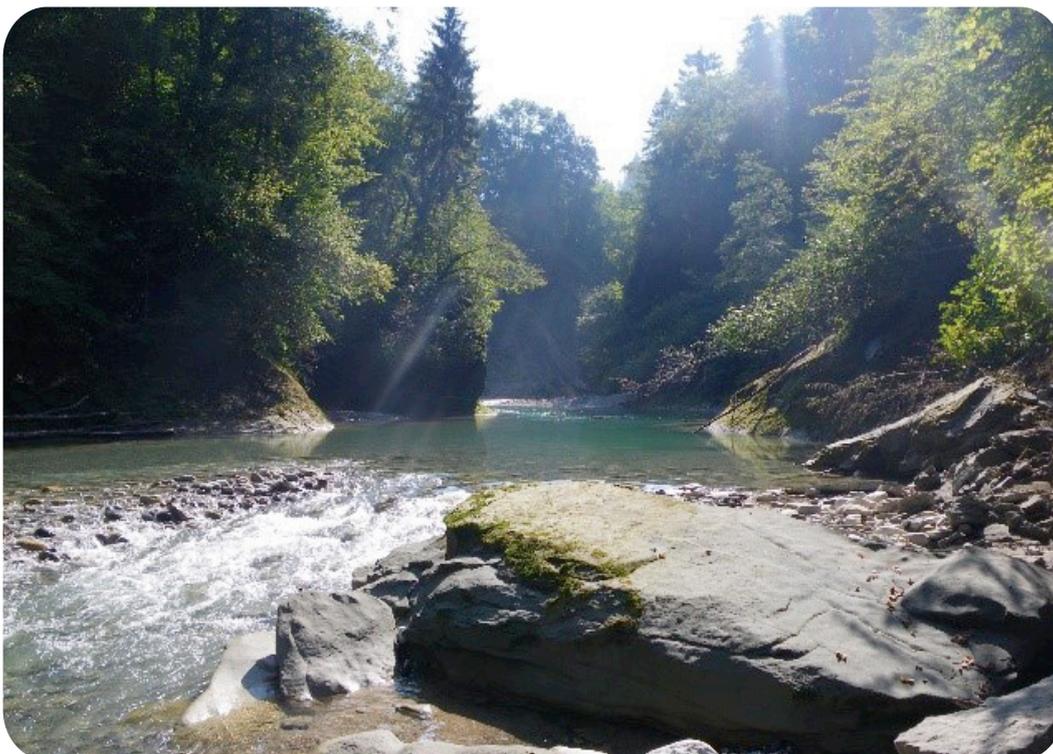
note is attributed to the candidate, on a 100 point basis, and the proponent, supported by a large community of local people and organisations, has to present a solid “action plan” which focuses on the improvement of the river’s ecology. Such a plan should include removing old structures, if any, setting in motions the best forestry, agricultural and land management practices, pushing studies to better monitor various data sets, and other measures. The action plan has to be implemented during the 5 years certification period. Three levels of certification have been determined by a certification committee. The 3rd level being almost out of reach in France, due to the very old History of human occupation and where 99 % of all watercourses have been influenced by human work

as anywhere else in Europe.

The label is delivered through an independent certification organism, the Afnor.

New projects are under way, with the support of WWF-Switzerland and Adria, to adapt the process to European Rivers, mainly in the Alps. A first transboundary project, on the Artoise, (France and Belgium) is under way, the French upper part being already labelled. A project is foreseen on the Owenduff, in Ireland. In this period of defiance between European countries, Wild Rivers is a kind of hopeful story.

More information on the ERN www.ern.org



Chera River ©Pascap Grillet



Perspectives on Ecological Continuity: Natural heritage, History, Landscape and Renewable energy

Report of the Life+ Symposium on ecological continuity held from 31 May to 2 June 2017 in Beaune, France



The regional natural Parks of the Morvan and the Ballons des Vosges have joined together to the Life program "Ecological continuity, watershed management, and associated heritage fauna". With their partners, they shared their experiences through an international symposium on 31 May and 1 and 2 June 2017 in Beaune (FRANCE, 21).

The restoration of ecological continuity on watercourses is now a major issue in the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) and its declensions in the laws in France. However, these new regulations are difficult to implement. The historical, landscape and cultural heritage of the weirs are the main reasons for this. Moreover, the evolution of technologies and the development of renewable energies stand up for reflection on small hydroelectricity. To this day, the restoration of ecological continuity is at the heart of the debate and raises a lot of concerns from the riverside owners, elected officials and other users of our rivers. This public policy can therefore not be reduced to the technical dimension only. They also have philosophical, sociological and political dimensions.



The symposium summarized the issues related to ecological continuity, the difficulties of implementation and the levers for the success of the projects. The following topics were covered by more than 20 speakers from different backgrounds and countries (France, Belgium, Spain, Netherland, Italy, Switzerland and USA):

- Recent scientific contributions on the impacts of the break in ecological continuity on the aquatic ecosystem.
- The new tools of ecological continuity.
- The ecological continuity seen by our European partners.
- How can we explain the difficulties in implementing policies to restore ecological continuity?
- How to implement ecologically and socially acceptable projects?
- What are the prospects for actions to restore ecological continuity?

230 participants contributed to the success of this symposium with many exchanges. They also worked in three different technical workshops:

- Concrete case studies on ecological continuity, hydroelectricity, sustainable development and a comparison with the United States
- World coffee on ecological continuity, social representations, landscapes and uses.
- Role play on ecological continuity, field animation and co-construction.



To know, to reconcile, to act and to communicate is the method used in the Life programme ecological continuity and this method was thus also used in the symposium. It was a good opportunity to preview the Life project film: "Between the vivid river and the tamed river a fair balance". And half a day was devoted to field visits in order to concretize the two previous days. All these exchanges have been rich and happened in good spirits, to make discover our colleagues, in particular supported by the meals and wine of Burgundy.

The video slides and proceedings of the symposium will be made available on the project website:
<http://www.life-continuite-ecologique.eu/>



Experiences of the Polish ECRR National River Restoration Centre



River Vistula, Warsaw, Polish, source weatlas.com

The Polish ECRR National Centre works as an informal group of scientists and practitioners. The contact point was placed in Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Department of Hydraulic Engineering with Dr. Mateusz Grygoruk as the leader. The actual river restoration issues and activities are strongly de-centralized with many fantastic initiators of river restoration research and implementation (e.g. IOP - Institute for Environmental Protection of Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow, Poznań University of Life Sciences, Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn, University of Warsaw, fishing clubs and many other entities).

Although the year 2017 was proclaimed to be the Year of Vistula, the last few years unfortunately have not brought any systematic or nation-wide programs aimed at increasing the quality of rivers. Instead, we have been facing increasing pressures from river regulation for navigation and agriculture. The National programs for the development of river navigation not only do not address the need of WFD implementation for increasing ecological status/potential of Polish rivers, but even aim at increasing the scale of technical modification of the most valuable water bodies. Additionally, the management of agricultural rivers that consumed nearly 30 billion of Polish Zlotys (some 7 BLN EUR) in years 2010-2015 (official information of the Ministry of Environment of Poland), has not accounted for any actions related to river restoration.

Such a background does not seem a desirable prerequisite for river restoration in Poland in the near future. Nevertheless, the society of scientists and NGOs related to rivers recently formed the Coalition "Save the Rivers" (Pol. Koalicja Ratujmy Rzeki) in order to plan future actions and counteract the lobby for river regulation. In this messy field, the Polish branch of ECRR was present in many pivotal initiatives, starting from

the Parliament of Poland, through the scientific conferences, ending (or rather starting from) upon the lowland and mountain rivers.

In September 2016, Józef Jeleński from AbOvo association, Prof. Bartłomiej Wyżga from IOP together with Joanna Zawiejka (Pedagogical University of Cracow) managed to arrange a successful international River Restoration Conference and gathered the best river (restoration) specialists on a few-days meeting in the Cracow University of Technology. Discussions and field sessions allowed to draw some interesting conclusions, especially referring to the catchment of the Raba River. Over there some dams were removed, what not only changed the ecosystems of the tributaries, but is mainly influencing the local stakeholders towards a positive attitude towards the environment. Some of the advances in river restoration presented at the conference will be presented soon in special issues of journals which will be announced in the coming issues of the ECRR Newsletter.

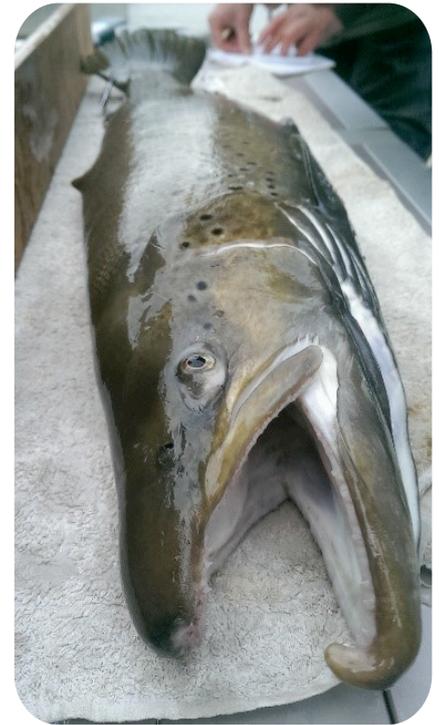
Some good news were reported from the Regional Board of Water Management in Warsaw (Pokropski, 2017) and the team of Prof. Piotr Dębowski (Inland Fisheries Institute) about the numbers of fish migrating through one of the most critical Polish dams – the Włocławek Dam (Lower Vistula). This dam, located approx. 250 km upstream from the Vistula estuary, was for a couple of decades a dead end for the Baltic sea trout, salmon and vimba bream for upstream migration. It closed the migration way to the rivers in 88% of the whole Vistula catchment. This includes also the Carpathian rivers, being formerly well functioning spawning grounds for sea trout and salmon. The fish-pass was recently reconstructed. Prof. Dębowski's team involved in the monitoring of fish-pass efficiency (catching, recording, tagging and releasing



fish) reported significant increase mainly of the sea trout migration in 2015 (Dębowski, 2016) compared to the years before. However, in general the numbers of all the fish passing through (3882 fish in 2015 and 7946 in 2016; sea trout 1566 and 651 in 2015 and 2016 respectively) were much lower than expected. Considering the recent revitalization measures of the fish-pass, the general expectations for the future increase in the fish migration should not be considered too optimistic.

Fortunately, the local fish populations have also gained allies. Many local fishing clubs started working in the field to improve and re-establish spawning grounds. Among many others, rivers Bystrzyca (E Poland), Raba (S Poland), Czarna Hańcza (NE Poland), Wełna (Central Poland) and Ina and Gowienica (NW Poland) gained some new spawning grounds. The most important fact in this matter is that although the majority of these actions were initiated by local activists, some procedures were implemented by water management authorities. Still – too few to be happy about the future of trout in Poland, but at least one could observe how important the bottom up approach in this issue is. For more results, governmental programmes are highly desirable, however they are yet new to Polish water management.

A nice 97 cm coloured male sea trout recorded in a fish-pass of Włocławek Dam in November 2016.



Salmo Club Białystok making spawning grounds for brown trout in Czarna Hańcza river.

Despite the actions described above, river restoration in Poland, similarly to the most of Central-European countries, still did not reach the level of political, societal and economic importance high enough to allow looking forward to a bright future of the country's riverine ecosystems. However, some local river restoration actions undertaken by fishing clubs and environmental management authorities allow foreseeing the change of this alarming status. It becomes more and more obvious that accounting for systematic, legal and institutional solutions in Polish approach to river restoration is likely not to be an appropriate strategy. Instead – together with the rivers – I hope for a gradual increase of the level of the environmental

education and local actions. The ECRR Poland in the coming years will do its best to contribute to these issues.

References:

Dębowski, P., 2016. (in Polish) Fish passage through the Włocławek Dam fishway in 2015. *Komunikaty Rybackie* 4/2016.
 Pokropski, T., 2017. (in Polish) Monitoring of fish migration through the fish pass in Włocławek Dam in 2016. RZGW Warszawa.
 URL: https://warszawa.rzgw.gov.pl/_data/assets/pdf/file/0005/15926/MONITORING-PRZEPIAWKI-NA-STOPNIU-WE-WIOCIAWKU-RAPORT-2016.pdf (accessed on 01.07.2017).



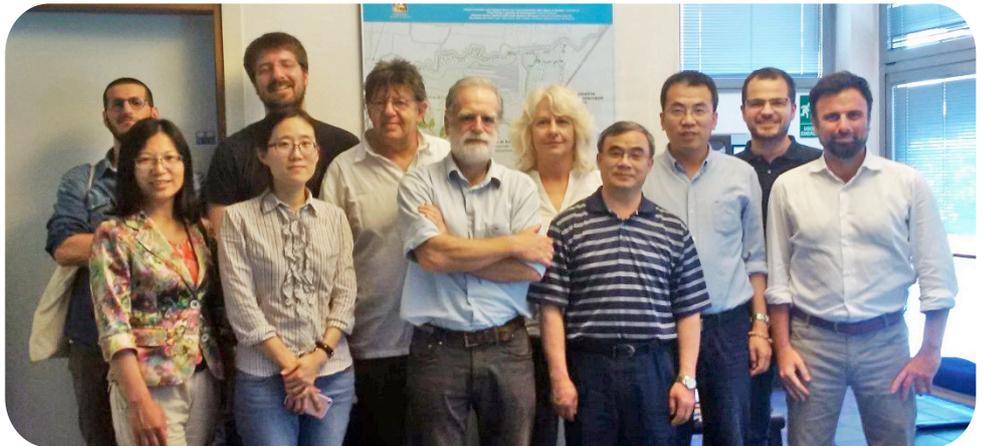
The Italian Centre for River Restoration (Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale – CIRF)

CIRF was established in 1999 as a not-for-profit technical-scientific association. The founding members were a group of professionals with different backgrounds related to sustainable river management and river restoration. The headquarter is based in Venice but the organization operates through a network of experts active all around Italy.

Since its constitution the main purpose of the association has been to foster the ecological river restoration approach, in order to improve the environmental quality of water courses and to provide social and economic benefits. In line with this aims CIRF is committed in implementing different initiatives:

- increasing public awareness on river restoration benefits, through educational activities, publications and dialogue with public authorities, practitioners and researchers;
 - coordinating, promoting and supporting pilot studies and innovative projects connected with sustainable river management;
 - developing and stimulating the involvement of all subjects interested in water and land management, even providing interaction and coordination with similar international centres.
- CIRF funds its own activities through membership fees and additional financial support, pilot projects development (mainly EU funded) and training activities.

In 2006 CIRF published the Italian handbook on River Restoration, at that time and still now featuring as a milestone for supporting sustainable river management at the national scale. A few years later CIRF organized the first Italian River Restoration Conference (Sarzana, 2009) and since then the event has been repeated every three years (Bolzano, 2012; Reggio Calabria, 2015). The conferences are gathering a large



A Chinese delegation from Tianjin University and Tianjin Academy of Environmental Sciences hosted by CIRF in May 2017 in cooperation with Acque Risorgive Drainage Authority.

part of the national community actively involved in integrated river governance. Every year CIRF is committed in organizing national and regional workshops, seminars and training courses. Recently CIRF has been asked to prepare technical guidelines for environmental restoration of natural and artificial water courses at regional or catchment scale.

Currently CIRF is the reference organisation in Italy on river restoration and sustainable river management, linking research with practice and networking with other technical-scientific association and both national and local public institutions. Key issues tackled include assessing effects of management alternatives of river systems, fluvial conflict resolution, ecosystem services related to healthy rivers, identification of best practice in hydromorphological management and restoration of rivers. In Italy CIRF is also acknowledged as a relevant organization for orienting the implementation of pertinent policies supporting public authorities and practitioners and through targeted dissemination. CIRF delegates are regularly invited to institutional tables for discussing issues related to policies, regulations and guidelines on sustainable river management.



Plenary session at the 3rd Italian River restoration Conference organized by CIRF in Reggio Calabria in November 2015.



Intransnational study tour on "Incised rivers and morphological restoration" organised by CIRF in Italy and Austria in October 2011 in the framework of the LIFE RESTORE project.



As an active member of relevant EU networks, CIRF can ensure transnational perspective and background, supporting the transfer of international best practices to its national context and feeding the international debate with its home country peculiarity and experience. The organization is acknowledged by ECRR as river restoration National Centre, having hosted its secretariat from 2006 to 2008, organising the 4th International

An outlook to the Calore (Lucano) gorges during the CIRF annual assembly on June 2013.



River restoration Conference in 2008 in Venice and actively contributing to the organization of the European River Restoration Conference and the European River Symposium in the following years. CIRF is also engaged with Wetlands International European Association (WIEA) and takes an active part in the Action Group on River Restoration Benefits within the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP-W) initiative.

As part of its international networking and dissemination strategy, CIRF plays a role as partner of EU funded projects. In the last few years the organization has been involved in [WaterDiss2.0](#) (FP7 funded project), whose general objective has been to speed-up the transfer of research outputs to water management institutions, and [RESTORE](#) (LIFE funded project), addressing a shortcoming in knowledge transfer in Europe on river restoration activities. The latter has been awarded by the European Commission as one of the “Best of the Best” LIFE information projects. At moment CIRF is partner of [HyMoCARES](#) (INTERREG ALPINE SPACE funded project) and [WetNet](#) (INTERREG MED funded project), whose general objectives are respectively developing an operational framework to integrate fluvial Ecosystem Services in relation to factors affecting river hydromorphology and testing place-based voluntary governance tools for sustainable management of wetlands (including rivers).

EUROPE-INBO 2017 (20-23 SEPTEMBER 2017, DUBLIN, IRELAND)

This year, the 15th “EUROPE-INBO 2017” international conference, co-organized with the “Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives”, will take place on 20-23 September 2017, Dublin (Ireland).

Organizations, administrations and other stakeholders interested in basin management are invited to participate. Activities will start on the 20th of October with a preparatory workshop on “Water data management organization and electronic reporting”. It will aim to share lessons learned of previous reporting phases and to discuss on best practices and potentialities for simplification, streamlining and standardization of data provision.

The participants will also have the opportunity to share their experiences on the topics of the four roundtables organized in plenary on the 21st and 22nd of September:

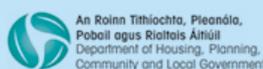
- Roundtable 1: WFD, upcoming milestones: 2019 Review, 3rd RBMPs and beyond...
- Roundtable 2: Adaptation to Climate Change: Pressures, Priorities, Insurances, Impacts and Resilience of Government Agencies and Economic Sectors,
- Roundtable 3: Public Participation: Statutory Consultation for RBMP, SEA, NIS and PoMs Development and on-going Sectoral, Voluntary, NGO and Network Participation,
- Roundtable 4: New Threats to Aquatic Environments: Degradation of Natural Capital and Ecosystems, Emerging Contaminants and Hazardous Substances, Micro pollutants including Plastics entering the Food-Chain, Non-point Source Pollution, Hydromorphology, Alien Species

The works will be in English and French.

A Technical Visit will be organized for Coastal and Inland Waters in Dublin and surrounding Counties , on Saturday 23 September.

Information on the event (programmes, papers, logistics) as well as the online registration form are available on INBO website (<http://inbo-news.org/>).

The registration form is available online: <http://www.inbo-news.org/inscription/europe-inbo-2017.php>. Registration is free but compulsory!



“Winner of the UK River Prize 2017 – The Hampshire Avon”



Chisenbury Site – 5 years on.

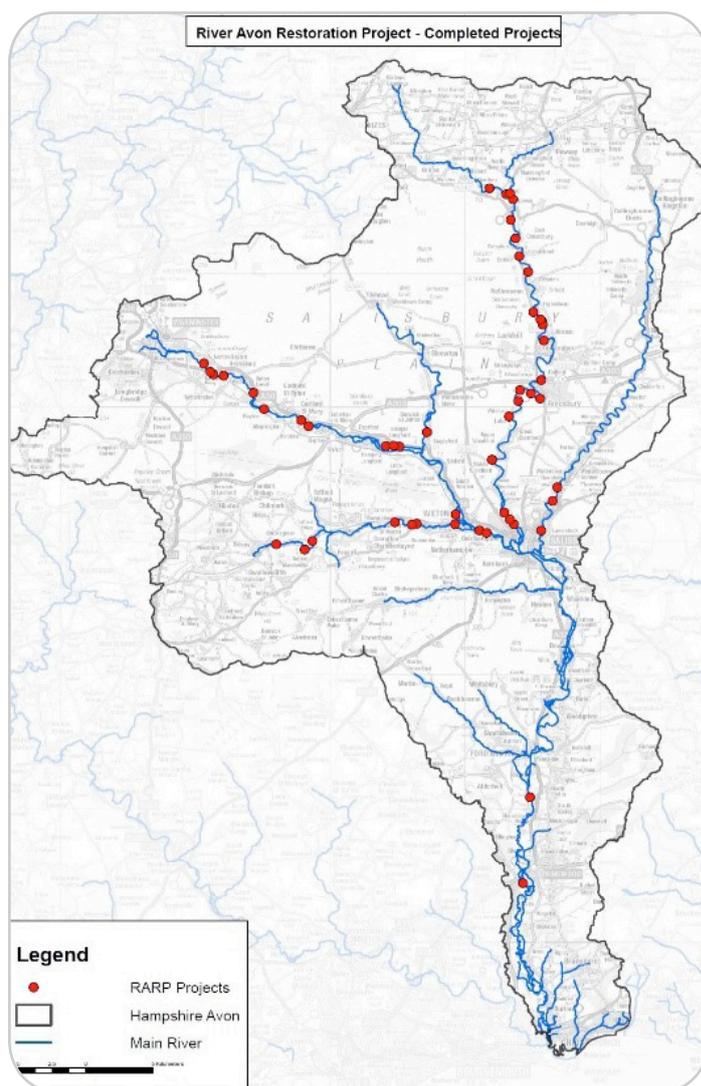
The need for a strategic approach to catchment-scale river restoration was identified by the European LIFE funded STREAM (STrategic REStoration And Management) partnership project. This led to the conception of the River Avon Restoration Programme (RARP) to restore the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to a naturally functioning system to meet the government’s obligations under the Water Framework and Habitats Directives.

The RARP Strategy identified 230km of river in need of restoration at a cost of £22.6 million. The delivery of RARP was initially led and funded by a dedicated Environment Agency (EA) team focussing on restoring reaches that needed complex restoration interventions. Over time, the programme has widened the partnership: the Catchment Partnership, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), Wessex Chalk Streams and Rivers Trust (WCS&RT) and fishing clubs. As part of that evolution, since 2015 the strategic direction is provided by the RARP Board on which all partners are represented.

The objective of RARP is to strategically restore reaches of river that have been most damaged by past physical modifications.

The project area corresponds with the nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and internationally important SAC. It includes the Avon and three of its major tributaries: Nadder, Wylye and Bourne. Map shown demonstrate the project area.

Although the Avon is recognised for its special ecological value, it has been used and modified ever since our Neolithic ancestors journeyed along it to reach Stonehenge. In many places it has been straightened or moved to the edge of the floodplain to work mills or water meadows. There are now some 150 weirs and sluices on the river. It has been dredged and overwidened for land drainage and is also embanked in places. All these modifications have impacts on the rivers’ ecology.





Quidhampton Brushwood Construction-Volunteers

Options were appraised and discussed with landowners and fishing clubs. Where the project received stakeholder support, it was taken forward into outline and then through to detailed design. Each project was costed and put into a 5-year work programme. Project partners, such as WWT, WCS&RT and fishing clubs were crucial in enabling simpler projects to be implemented whilst the EA concentrated on the more technically challenging projects.

A range of restoration methods have been used to restore the rivers' natural processes. These include the removal, modification and bypassing of structures; re-alignment of the river through the floodplain; re-meandering the channel within its existing plan-form and much more.

RARP has an agreed Monitoring Protocol aligned with the Practical River Restoration Appraisal Guidance for Monitoring Options (PRAGMO). One benefit of having a programme of projects spread over a number of years is being able to strategically plan the application of monitoring techniques. Monitoring techniques undertaken so far include: Biotope Mapping, Electro fish survey, Fixed Point Photography, River Habitat Survey, analysis of invertebrate communities and stream particle analysis using a Gravelometer.

An Independent Review led by The UK River Restoration Centre is currently underway to assess those actions delivered so far under RARP against the objectives and outcomes required for the project. This review includes site assessments, discussions with stakeholders and workshops to enable feedback on the river restoration process. An important conclusion is that riparian owners and fishing clubs have become instrumental in implementing RARP. This review will be used to improve and inform delivery of future work.

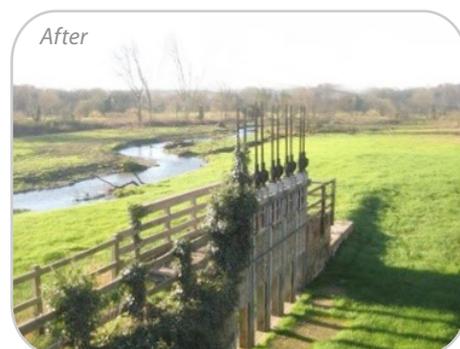
So far, RARP has delivered 52 projects, totalling 33.5km of improvements. By November 2017 the EA and Project Partners will have restored a total of 47.6km of river for a cost of £4.1 million, averaging £86/m.

The completion of Phase 1 is not the end point but a springboard for the next phases of restoration using the knowledge, experience and goodwill built up over the past ten years. A further programme of work is needed on the remaining 185km to fully realise a more naturally functioning catchment, able to respond and adapt to climate change.

A 3 minute RARP video can be seen from the RRC youtube video channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX9TtUDTctc>

Landowner Comms – Alternative approach



EUROPEAN RIVER RESTORATION LEARNING HUB EVENT

LYON, FRANCE 27th–29th August 2017

'delivering multiple benefits for both people and wildlife'



Aim: Share learning and experiences with others from across Europe, focussing on the application of delivering large scale projects that can deliver a wide range of benefits, such as natural flood risk management, ecological restoration and socio-economic value for our communities.

Event: A 2 day workshop in **Lyon, France 27th–29th August 2017** focussing on real life examples/projects where maximum outcomes were realised (or even those that failed!). Understanding the processes, risks and difficulties often associated with delivering large scale projects is also a key element of this learning hub.

Sharing: This will present an opportunity for key officers to discuss in detail some of the challenges faced delivering projects, but each individual will feed back and share their learning with others in their respective countries, programmes and colleagues who are delivering similar work. The learning from the workshop will also be shared with key National and European partners (RRC, ECRR, French Agency for Biodiversity etc.), who themselves can use their extensive networks to disseminate the information

Draft Workshop timetable:

August 27th: Attendees arrive at Lyon, France (chosen for its central location and good transport links).

August 28th: 9am – 4.30pm - A day of presentations and an afternoon of breakout sessions to encourage open discussion. Each group will have a facilitator who will record and share the points discussed. There will be particular themes for each break out session (i.e. process, landowner/partner engagement, risk management, evidence and monitoring etc). We are looking for about 6-7 presentations (approx 20-30 mins each). Any innovative VT type presentations also welcomed

August 29th: 9-1pm – A site visit of the river Yzeron project near Lyon, which has delivered multiple benefits (flood protection, ecological, socio-economic benefits). A project delivered in an urban environment, with multiple constraints.

1pm Finish

A view of the river Yzeron river restoration project (2014 – before restoration (left) and after restoration (right) – site visit on the August 30th morning



Organisation & key contacts:

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Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée
Corse

Olly Southgate – oliver.southgate@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency Project

Manager – Cumbria/Lancashire – UK

Venue

Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée & Corse

2-4, allée de Lodz 69363

LYON Cedex 07

<https://www.eurmc.fr/the-rhone-mediterranean-and-corsica-water-agency.html>

Here is a link on how to get to the agence de l'eau by public transport (in French):

<https://www.eurmc.fr/infos-pratiques/coordonnees-et-plans-dacces.html>



I.S.Rivers 2018 – 3rd international conference Integrative sciences and sustainable development of rivers

From 4 to 8 June, 2018 in Lyon (France)

Following the success of I.S.Rivers 2012 and 2015, the **GRAIE and ZABR are launching the third edition of I.S.Rivers in 2018**, international conference dedicated to research and practices on natural and human-impacted large rivers worldwide.

Promote multidisciplinary approaches, engage all stakeholders and build links

The aim of this international conference is to share research and experiences among scientists and water stakeholders to improve practices for a sustainable management of large rivers. Particular consideration is given to the integration of physical, ecological and social perspectives of the different stakeholders involved in river management (governance, economy, culture).

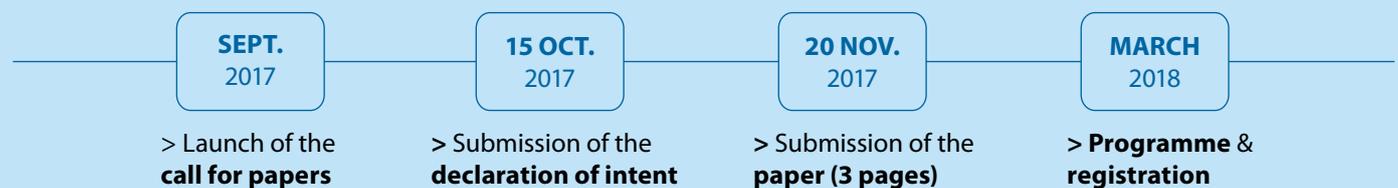
The main themes for 2018:

TRAJECTORIES, PRESSURES, ADAPTATION > Evolution of fluvial environments and adaptation to global changes

RIVER FUNCTIONING AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES > Rivers: from functional evaluation to integrated management

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES > Restoration: feasibility, expected effects and success evaluation

RIVERS AND MEN IN INTERACTION > Rivers and men, governance, stakeholder interactions, and equity



I.S.Rivers specificities:

- A conference focusing on **natural or human impacted large rivers**
- In which **all facets** of the rivers may be addressed
- Presentation of **multidisciplinary research occurring in interaction with management**
- **Feedbacks** on innovative operational actions enabling the transferability of good practices for river restoration and management
- **English and French simultaneous translation** in all sessions and technical tours

Key figures of I.S.Rivers 2015:

450 participants (scientists, local authorities, consultants) from **28** countries

2 ½ days of conference

73 rivers represented

+ 190 oral and poster presentations

4 technical tours

3 specialised workshops



Contact: Graie – Conference secretariat | isrivers@graie.org | +33 (0)4 72 43 70 56

More information at: www.isrivers.org



ECRR Events calendar 2017-2018

Date / period	Title / issue	Location	Links
19-21 July, 2017	River Basin Management	Prague, Czech Republic	www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2017/river-basin-management-2017
27 August – 1 September, 2017	World Water Week	Stockholm, Sweden	www.worldwaterweek.org
3-6 September, 2017	Symposium Adaptation of inland Fisheries and Aqua Culture to Climate Change	Stare Jablonki, Poland	www.eifaac2017.pl
11-15 September, 2017	1st International Conference “Lakes of Eurasia: Problems and Solutions”	Petrozavodsk, Russia	http://water.krc.karelia.ru/event.php?id=288&plang=e
14-15 September, 2017	International Baikal Ecological Water Forum	Irkutsk, Russia	http://baikal-forum.com/en/index.html
18-20 September, 2017	20th International River Symposium	Brisbane, Australia	www.riversymposium.com
14-15 September, 2017	River Restoration Workshop of CIREF: Gestión y restauración de Red Natura 2000 en el ámbito fluvial.	Busturia (Bizkaia), Spain	http://www.cirefluvial.com/en/index.html (All talks and debates in Spanish)
27-28 September, 2017	National Seminar on restoration of rivers and wetlands	Bergen, Norway	Information: anders.iversen@miljodir.no
23-25 October 2017	International Summit of the Great Rivers of the world: «Taking Action for Water and Climate»	Rome, Italy	http://www.minambiente.it/water-and-climate-summit/
30 October – 3 November, 2017	Amsterdam International Water Week	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.internationalwaterweek.com
16-17 February, 2018	20th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management	London, UK	https://www.waset.org/conference/2018/02/london/ICSWRM
4-8 June, 2018	I.S.Rivers 2018 3e International Conference; Integrative sciences and sustainable development of rivers.	Lyon, France	www.isrivers.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@ecrr.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 ECRR Network Subscribent

All who are interested in river restoration and sustainable water management are encouraged to join the ECRR. Subscribers receive the ECRR Newsletter about four times a year and are the first to be informed about activities by the ECRR, its members and partner organisations.

To register, go to www.ecrr.org.

If you want to unsubscribe for the newsletter, please send an email to info@ecrr.org.

