

Registration now open!

Online registration is now available on the conference website. Don't miss out on the discounted Early Bird registration fee of €250 which closes on the 15th of May. The European Riverprize Gala and a field trip excursion are included in your registration.

Celebrating successes and addressing challenges

Join us as we share and learn about the successes, challenges and opportunities for river restoration in Europe. The 5th European River Restoration Conference will bring together key policy makers and restoration practitioners to discuss opportunities for river restoration to achieve a number of environmental, economic and social objectives.

Call for proposals - submit case study summaries and session proposals until 15 April
View Conference Themes, Submission Instructions and upload your Session Proposal

Ensuring a sustainable course for Europe's rivers

Rivers in Europe are at a critical juncture. Maintaining and restoring the ecological functions of rivers in light of growing demands for water, energy and food, and increasing pressures from climate change and infrastructure development are growing challenges. At the same time, there are exciting new opportunities to achieve environmental and social policy objectives through river restoration. The keynote sessions, case studies, best practices, knowledge sharing, tools and networking opportunities will be indispensable for including river restoration in policies and practices in Europe.

Featuring the International River Foundation's 1st European Riverprize
Open for applications until 29 March

(finalists to showcase their experiences in a special session)

Excursion to an important restoration site included with registration

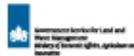
- Visit one of the largest and most successful restoration projects in Europe: the revitalization of river banks along the Danube River and the reconnection of side arms in the National Park 'Donau-Auen'
- Or explore solutions for fish migration at hydropower plants, including in the world famous 'Wachau valley'

Venue and accommodation

Overlooking the nearby Danube River and the historic architecture of central Vienna - **view more information on Tech Gate Vienna** and **nearby hotels**.

For more information: contact Xander de Bruine, email: xander@errc2013.eu, **website:** <http://www.errc2013.eu>

Made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community through the RESTORE project:



Restoring Europe's Rivers



1. Realising European policy ambitions: River restoration can help to realise European policy ambitions captured in Directives such as the Water Framework Directive, Flood Risk Management Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. This session will reflect on policy implementation challenges being encountered and seek to identify solutions and the next steps to bring these into mainstream use at European, national and local level. A key note, case studies and a plenary discussion session will explore these themes.

2. Cost-effective solutions to water resource management challenges: River restoration is often a very cost-effective solution to water management challenges. However, economic valuation of river restoration options often do not include costs associated with all the benefits, reducing their apparent value as an option. The session will examine the nature of the challenge from the point of view of river basin planners and managers and show-case case studies that highlight the way forward. A key note, case studies and a plenary discussion session will explore these themes.

3. Sustainable flood risk management: Intensifying use of land and water coupled with the impacts of climate change are increasing flood risk in many parts of Europe. River restoration can play an important role in contributing to the realisation of sustainable flood risk management strategies and infrastructure whilst generating multiple benefits. A key note, case studies and a plenary discussion session will explore these themes.

4. Re-balancing water use benefits: Major infrastructural and land developments in river basins change service delivery in terms of type, degree and distribution, causing some people to benefit and others to lose. This change in values derived from water, typically moves them away from traditional beneficiaries, including ecosystems and local communities to sectors such as energy, agriculture and transport. Focusing on river restoration needs and bringing these into operational and planning requirements can help to rebalance these values to ensure multi-user benefits are better distributed. A key note, case studies and a plenary discussion session will explore these themes.

5. Ensuring environmental resilience: green infrastructure: The resilience of European ecosystems and especially those that are water dependent such as wetlands is dependent on the maintenance of connectivity between them. Establishment and maintenance of green infrastructure is increasingly seen as the means to achieve this, with the recent consultation on green infrastructure and green paper and its links into the Blueprint for Water published in 2012. River restoration must play a key role re-establishing and improving links between aquatic systems. Through a key note, case studies and a plenary discussion session this theme and the challenges to bringing river restoration into green infrastructure planning and implementation will be explored.

6. Enhancement of multi-use landscapes: A diverse and greener landscape can have many benefits to other sectors such as agriculture, recreation and tourism. However, integrating this thinking into strategic spatial planning is a particular challenge. This session will showcase innovative approaches to achieving this. A key note and case studies will explore the theme.

7. Maintaining water supply: Multiple use of rivers and the likely impacts of climate change mean that the maintenance of essential flows for different users, including ecosystems, agriculture and people is becoming increasingly difficult. River restoration has a role to play here in supporting river flows from upstream to downstream. The value of this as a tool to maintain water and environmental flows will be explored in this session through a key note and a series of case studies.

8. Maintaining and enhancing European biodiversity: The re-establishment of river habitats and the biodiversity they support can play a significant role in enhancing the quality of individual ecosystems and those along a river. In particular there are benefits from restoring natural process within the whole catchment, so channel improvements but also their associated habitats and wetlands. A key note and case studies will explore this theme.

9. Tools and resources to support River Restoration: River and land managers do not always have access or experience of river restoration techniques/ processes and the benefits from river restoration. Existing experiences and knowledge are not widely available. Together this is a barrier to good practice. The RESTORE project has worked to develop a series of approaches and tools to overcome these challenges. This session will showcase the key achievements and seek feedback and consultation on how they could be improved further and taken forward.

10. Ensuring local sustainability: A major challenge to river restoration is ensuring that an initiative is sustainable from a local stakeholder perspective. This requires securing local support and engagement in the planning, implementation and monitoring of a particular initiative. Though restoration initiatives may have clear benefits at larger scales and responsible agencies and actors, they may not always easily translate into benefits that are easily positively understood or perceived by local communities. When this is achieved, it can also translate into local stakeholder support and action to facilitate the realisation of the initiative and its maintenance. This session will consider how to engage stakeholders to maximise support and sustainability of river restoration. A key note and case studies will explore these themes.

11. River Restoration: A shared challenge: Challenges to achieving good river restoration are experienced the world over. Often these are similar in nature but different cultures, actors and networks arrive at different innovations and solutions. This session will invite representatives of prominent river restoration practitioners and networks the world over to reflect on their own context and how they have confronted the challenges being experienced in Europe.