

# Restoring Europe's Rivers

## RESTORE Bulletin

November 2012

[Call for Submissions for RESTORE's European River Restoration Conference in September 2013 in Vienna go to: \[www.errconference.eu\]\(http://www.errconference.eu\)](#)

## The RESTORE River Wiki reaches 300 case studies!

Our River Wiki database is an invaluable tool for policy makers, river basin managers, and practitioners involved in river restoration. We went live in September 2012 and after just 3 months our River Wiki database now holds 300 projects from 24 countries and is still growing.

The case studies, from all over Europe, cover a range of themes from biodiversity to economics and flood risk management, and are in various stages of completion. Besides the wealth of case studies the database provides background information and links to relevant websites for each country. We also have discussion forums where users can exchange ideas and ask questions.



## Easy

The RESTORE River Wiki is an intuitive, easy and recognisable mixture of

## News & events in November

River Wiki reaches 300 case studies

Water Blueprint

Sweden – bypass channel in Ålgårda

ERCIP update

## Past events

Updates from Finland:  
Austria, Iceland and Belgium

Bulgaria – International workshop

Living North Sea – Rivers Trust

RRC in France

Wikipedia style information and Google maps. All levels of computer proficiency are able to upload their own case studies and take part the discussion forums.

### **Versatile**

The RESTORE River Wiki offers you various ways for querying. You can start searching from the Google maps interface, browse projects per country, or per theme. If this is not enough for you, explore the nearly 100 different options that the advanced search provides.

Access the River Wiki at <http://riverwiki.restorerivers.eu> and submit your project now to showcase it and start sharing experiences with your colleagues throughout Europe.

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## **Water Blueprint: European Commission Water Blueprint supports river restoration**

On 14 November, the European Commission released its [Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources](#), outlining proposals to ensure better implementation of the EU's water policy objectives. Several initiatives in the Blueprint recognise the benefits of river restoration to improve the ecological status of Europe's waters.

Proposals on natural water retention, ecological flows and water accounts are encouraging steps. In addition, support for the restoration of floodplains and wetlands as a priority for funding under the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion and Structural Funds, would provide opportunities to expand river restoration activities. The Blueprint also encourages restoration measures in the River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans submitted by Member States.

However, in order to ensure effective uptake and implementation by river basin managers and local governments, additional knowledge brokering, dissemination of best practices and support for river restoration networks as exemplified by RESTORE is needed.

[View the Blueprint submission of RESTORE and several partners.](#)

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## **Sweden: Bypass channel completed in Ålgårda**

Nature-like bypasses are designed and constructed to simulate natural riverine environments. A new example of this type of bypass channel was completed in Southern Sweden in October 2012. It is located in the downstream area of River Rolfsån and makes it possible for sea trout and salmon populations to migrate

through a functional hydropower plant.

Building a bypass channel (see photo below) enables migration for all animals, including benthic invertebrates (living on the sediment surface). Bypass channels are superior to the more traditional structures 'fishways' placed on or around structures. Traditional fish bypass structures can take the form of steep steps or ladders. Constructing a more natural channel makes it easier for salmonid fish to migrate and they also have more value for the landscape.



Bypass channel at Ålgårda

You can learn a number of different best practice techniques from this project. Besides the bypass channel a more traditional 'fishway' was also installed within the natural river channel, this included a separate eel pass and low sloping bypass system for downstream migrating fish at the power plant's intake channel. The best part is that the water flow has been adapted to provide water for all the channels. The water levels are also kept naturally varying within certain environmental limits year-round.

Information about the whole river scale project can be found at [www.rolfsan.se](http://www.rolfsan.se)

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## **ERCIP website goes live**

The European River Corridor Improvement Plans ([www.ercip.eu](http://www.ercip.eu)) project is funded by the EU through Interreg IVC and their website is now live.

The project is exploring the value of localised RCIP's as a way for agencies with different roles and responsibilities to agree to work together for the environmental, social and economic benefits of Europe's river corridors.

ECIP is running from 2012 to 2014 and involves a local authority and a regional or national agency from each of the five countries involved (UK, Germany, Italy, Romania and Greece).

The partners commit to working jointly to produce a locally relevant River Corridor Improvement Plan and use the lessons learnt to contribute to a European RCIP methodology. This approach compliments existing national and regional river catchment or basin plans and adds value by providing a platform for a localised understanding of wider EU priorities.

ERCIP are spending 36 months rewriting best practice on the localised management of river corridors. Their aim is to produce an easy to use guide for European and local and regional authorities to fill the gap between catchment plans and WFD and the reality of delivering and making them relevant.

Please visit [www.ercip.eu](http://www.ercip.eu) for further information and to sign up for project news and social media output.

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## Events update from Finland (SYKE)

**ISE 2012 International Symposium on Ecohydraulics, 17-21 September 2012 Vienna, Austria**



Photo courtesy of SYKE: R. Danube new side channel under construction

The International symposium gathered 300 participants to discuss research and new solutions on waters, focusing on river issues.

In the key note speeches the overall theme was the hydro power schemes of the big rivers such as the Mekong River.

Fish migration problems in European rivers, such as the problem faced by sturgeon in the Danube, were also discussed. More positively, the cooperative working between river restoration interests and power generation in Austria was

also highlighted.

Sessions consisted of presentations about river restoration, fish upstream and downstream migration, environmental flows, modelling and aquatic ecology. Presentations on new fish pass projects, combined with reproduction habitats, were presented, including a presentation from Jukka Jormola of SYKE. Technical tours were organized to fish passes and a new side channel under construction at the Danube.

Proceedings: <http://www.ise2012.boku.ac.at/>

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### **5<sup>th</sup> Nordic Conference on Water Framework Directive, 26-28 September, Reykjavik, Iceland**

The annual Nordic conference on WFD brought together 50 river basin managers from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland to discuss common guidelines for the River Basin Management Plans. Two conference sessions were organized as a RESTORE communication event.



Photo courtesy of SYKE: Iceland

Auri Sarvilinna gave a presentation about environmental drainage measures in agriculture. Some of the measures discussed were agreed and were then taken forward as resolutions to be applied in all countries to prevent negative impacts on agriculture.

Antton Keto led the session about measures for heavily modified water bodies. Jukka Jormola gave a presentation about compensative habitats to gain Good Ecological Potential. This approach, representing the goals of RESTORE, was agreed in the conference resolutions to be applied in new guidelines.

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### **Network Meeting Fish passage and Connectivity, 2nd October, Brussels, Belgium**

The meeting was organized in the DG Environment for EU projects dealing with connectivity and fish migration. RESTORE was represented by Jukka Jormola

(SYKE) and projects about the Living North Sea were presented.

Ms. Lourdes Alverrellos talked about the evaluation of the Programs of Measures of the River Basin management Plans. Green Infrastructure was stressed as an overall environmental strategy to be promoted in EU and fish passes were also discussed as an important way of gaining connectivity. In the discussion RESTORE asked whether technical fish passes are adequate or should we be promoting nature-like bypass channels to gain continuity for all species, representing real Green Infrastructure.

Ideas from the participants were collected about issues to be promoted by DG Environment in future. Key points from the RESTORE High energy river workshop held in Scotland on 25th September were added to the list, such as sediment mobility and compensation ecology in connection with bypasses in hydropower schemes and legislation promoting this in all countries.

**For more information about these events please contact Ms Auri Sarvilinna at: [Auri.Sarvilinna@ymparisto.fi](mailto:Auri.Sarvilinna@ymparisto.fi)**

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## **Bulgaria – International workshop**

***River Restoration – an important activity in water management field*** Ruse, Bulgaria 8th November 2012

An international workshop was organised by the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management (NIHWM) with the support of the Service for Land and Water Management – DLG, The Netherlands and the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Ruse, Bulgaria.

The workshop was aimed at

- finding ways to influence policy makers to implement river restoration practices on projects such as flood protection infrastructure and hydropower plants.
- developing a strategy to reach policymakers to use the Directives in ways that encourage innovative thinking about improved river restoration techniques.

During the workshop ***Round Table Strategies to reach policymakers in East European Region*** took place. The experiences within *The Meander Project* in Croatia was also shared.

Representatives from Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary gave the following presentations about river restoration in their countries:

- The organization of River Restoration in Romania within European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR);

- River Restoration – part of Romanian National Biodiversity Strategy;
- The River Restoration in Bulgaria – responsible institutions, projects and problems; and
- River Restoration in Hungary

The NIHWM Romania participates is a subcontractor of DLG - Government Service for Land and Water Management, The Netherlands.

If you require further information click [here](#)

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## **Living North Sea – project conference, November 2012**

This Interreg IVB event, led by the UK's Rivers Trust, showcased the work undertaken during this €6M project. The work centred upon the difficulties imposed on migration for fish whose life cycle involves a journey to the North Sea. Sea Trout and Eels took much of the limelight, but work on Sturgeon and other migratory species was also highlighted.

The issues and barriers to overcome included dams and weirs; hydropower schemes; pumping stations and tidal barrages. Work to improve understanding of migratory behaviour and success was reported, with the project as a whole proposing statements for future work and policy direction. These are available from the LNS website [here](#) and the Rivers Trust [here](#) and other partners [here](#).

For anyone within the North Sea Region, these presentations from Denmark, UK, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Belgium will be a good source of further information. For inspiration, the work of NOAA presented by George Pess, on 30-60m dam removal in a Pacific NW National Park is well worth downloading.

Part sponsored by the LNS project, a new book "From Sea to Source: International Guidance for the Restoration of Fish Migration Highways" has been launched and is available as hard copy to buy or to freely [download](#).

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## **RRC field visit to Sèvre Nantaise basin, France** **11-12 October 2012**

The River Restoration Centre had a successful 2 day field visit to France last month, visiting restoration sites in the Sèvre Nantaise basin.

The overall theme was the management of water level structures looking at sites incorporating different methods such as weir removal and habitat enhancement

works at in Cholet, and re-diverting a channel and an online spawning (shallow) lake at the River Sèvre.

The key finding was that the process in delivering a project was different in the UK where public consultation is required in drafting the local/regional basin plan. This means that all views are heard at a very early stage although this can slow the process down.

Dr. Jenny Mant and Nicholas Elbourne (River Restoration Centre) hosted the event and were joined by Antoine Charrier (Institution interdépartementale du bassin de la Sèvre Nantaise - IIBSN), Eddie Renou (IIBSN – syndicat de la Moine), François Cailleaud (IIBSN – syndicat des Sources).

For further information contact: [rrc@therrc.co.uk](mailto:rrc@therrc.co.uk)

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