

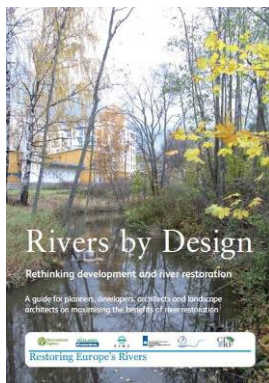
# Restoring Europe's Rivers

## RESTORE Bulletin

April 2013

### Rivers by Design – our new guide is now available

*Rivers by Design* is a new guide for planners, developers, architects and landscape architects.



Using a series of inspirational case studies, from Korea to Milton Keynes, it shows development professionals the crucial role they can play in meeting the needs of people and the environment through river restoration.

The guide offers practical advice and step-by-step help on restoring rivers. It also illustrates how working with the natural environment makes economic and environmental sense.

*Rivers by Design* has been written by [RESTORE](#), a partnership for sharing knowledge and promoting best practice on river restoration in Europe.

*Rivers by Design* is freely available for download from the RESTORE website.

[Download Rivers by Design](#)

#### News in April

[Rivers by Design](#)

RiverWiki – have your say !

Liberty Island, Hungary

Changing views in Romania

RESTORE policy workshop, Dublin

#### Upcoming events and call for papers

[RESTORE event: Germany and Sweden](#)

[ERRC – conference and call for papers](#)

[SER 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference, USA](#)

## RiverWiki update – have your say !

RESTORE's [RiverWiki](#) is an interactive source of information on river restoration schemes from around Europe! It's also a tool is for sharing best practices and lessons learnt for policy makers, practitioners and researchers of river restoration.



Up to now, the database holds **370** river restoration case studies from **24** countries

**HAVE YOUR SAY**, we are working on improvements to the site over the next couple of months [please contact us](#) with any suggestion.

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## Restoring nature on Liberty Island

One of Hungary's largest river restoration projects, Liberty Island on the Danube, is almost complete.



Image from [project website](#)

30 years ago the side channel was divided by a rock embankment dam resulting in sediment build up and stopping the flow of water. As a result the unique habitats of the side channel and the island were being lost and

the river was losing its healthy ecosystem.

The project aimed to restore the island's natural floodplain forest and protect drinking water supplies by dredging the side channel, removing the dam to allow the free flow of water and relocating a major water pipe from the dam under the riverbed. Other restoration works included clearing invasive plant species such as box elder and replanting native trees such as silver poplar. Once the restoration works are completed it is hoped that native fish and bird species will return.

It is also hoped that the restoration of Liberty Island, a Natura 2000 site, will encourage other similar projects along the Danube. In order to promote the benefits of restoration a nature trail was created, and field trips and scientific demonstrations have been given about Liberty Island.

The project is due to be completed in December 2013 and has been carried out in collaboration with WWF Hungary, Municipality of Mohacs Town, Transdanubian Regional Waterworks Corporation, Lower-Danube-valley Water Directorate, Danube Drava National Park Directorate, Coca-Cola HBC Hungary and Cargill.

Supported by Life + the project is the first step in protecting numerous islands and side-channels on the Danube and restoring original water habitats.

For more information see the [project homepage](#)

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## Changing perceptions about rivers

### Project news from National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania

Earlier this year an International workshop '*Sharing River Restoration Knowledge and Experience in Europe*', was held in Iasi, Romania.

Almost thirty specialists, mainly from Romania, but also from 4 other European countries attended the workshop and also enjoyed a field visit to the restored Ciobarciu wetland, on the Jijia River in the Prut River Basin.

The most valuable outcome of this workshop was the opportunity to change outdated perceptions about rivers which assumes the only way to solve complex river related issues is to employ hard engineering techniques. Information presented by the RESTORE project about utilising natural functions and softer solutions to issues such as flooding, were helpful in beginning to change these ideas.

Another important outcome of the workshop was the opportunity for participants to learn about the [RiverWiki](#) and to share this tool with river basin planners, scientists and Hydroelectrica, the Romanian National Hydropower Company.

Speakers at the workshop gave talks about river restoration projects in UK, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania focusing on the main drivers for restoration such as WFD and the Habitat Directive. Discussions were also held on the main obstacles to delivering policy and the necessary knowledge about applying good river restoration practices.

The attendees were able to take home new insights and knowledge to their colleagues about restoring fish ponds, morphological impact, lessons learned from river restoration projects and sedimentation after reconnecting meanders.

The workshop was organised by National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management supported by the Service for Land and Water Management, The Netherlands.

Please contact Elisabeta Cserwid, (Regional Communications Assistant) for further information. [Elisabeta.cserwid@hidro.ro](mailto:Elisabeta.cserwid@hidro.ro)

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### **RESTORE policy workshop, April 2013, Dublin**

The Irish weather offered both rain and sun during The RESTORE policy workshop given by [The River Restoration Centre](#) in Dublin 9-10<sup>th</sup> of April.



Field visit to weir on rock sill at R. Dodder, photo RRC

Over 50 delegates explored the conference theme '*The synergy between EU directives to achieve best practice river restoration and management*' and enjoyed site visits to the Rivers Tolka and Dodder on the outskirts of Dublin.

Presentations ranged from managing cross-border fresh water pearl mussel projects (Tony McNally, Donegal County Council) to actively incorporating Water Framework Directive requirements, and working with natural processes within flood risk management (Joe Nicholson, Rivers Agency).

Several presenters emphasised that there is a need to stop working in isolation and think about how our restoration measures affect the system from source to sea. Examples were given how restoration of some areas, such as raised bogs (Judith Bankhead, Rivers Agency) or estuaries (Steve Colclough, Colclough & Coates Aquatic Consultants), can be used to “tick boxes” for meeting the requirements of multiple directives such as the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats, Floods, Fish and Birds Directives.

The river restoration work at Tolka Valley was the subject of one field visit and participants looked at how measures such as installing urban drainage systems, restoring wetlands and riparian planting has led to a marked increase in biodiversity, amenity value and the re-colonisation of Atlantic Salmon.

Other participants visited the River Dodder , south east of Dublin, which is undergoing enhancement works in several areas. Adjacent the new Aviva rugby stadium, measures have been taken to set back the flood walls to make space for footpaths along the river.

This workshop also provided a unique opportunity for water managers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to come together and, in a very positive and proactive approach, discuss management of cross-border restoration projects and common concerns on how to meet the requirements of river related EU directives.

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## Upcoming events

### **RESTORE event – field visits to river restoration projects in Germany and Switzerland 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

[The River Restoration Centre](#) is pleased to announce an upcoming RESTORE event now open for booking: ‘Restoration of River Dynamics and Continuity in Heavily Modified Rivers’.

The [draft programme](#) includes:

**Munich, Germany:** 22 - 23 May

Visit to the River Isar in Munich to see how the Isar Plan has enhanced ecological and fluvial processes and improved fish passage, whilst at the same time providing new recreation areas for residents and visitors.

**Switzerland:** 24 - 25 May

An opportunity to visit to Rivers Rhine, Aare and Limmat in Switzerland to explore how river processes, habitat connectivity, fish access and fish spawning opportunities have been enhanced, especially at hydropower plants.

The event is in English, and amongst our guides will be well-known river restoration experts Walter Binder and Rolf-Jürgen Gebler.

Attending the event is **FREE**. This includes guides, coach journeys, lunch on Wednesday and on the Thursday, lunch for the Germany delegates or dinner for the Switzerland delegates. However, Participants will be expected to cover their transport costs (to Munich and back from Munich/Zurich/Basel) and overnight accommodation.

[Booking form](#)

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### **European River Restoration Conference: Submissions deadline extended until 1 May!**

You still have time to submit a poster or presentation for the European River Restoration Conference to be held in Vienna, 11–13 September.

To accommodate all the interest we are receiving, we are extending the deadline until 1 May. See the conference website for [submission guidelines](#) and conference [themes](#).

#### **Key conference deadlines**

Don't forget the following key dates:

- 1 May – Final deadline for submissions. [Read more](#)
- 15 May – Deadline for early bird registration rate. [Register here](#)



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### **5<sup>th</sup> World conference on Ecological Restoration, USA**

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration: *Reflections on the Past, Directions for the Future* in Madison, WI, USA from October 6-11, 2013.



Conference centre for 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference, Madison WI, USA

The conference coincides with SER's 25th Anniversary, and will bring together participants from around the world interested in the science and practice of ecological restoration, large-scale ecosystem restoration, natural resource management, climate change, biodiversity conservation, environmental policy, and sustainable development.

The 4-day scientific program will feature more than 100 concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics related to restoration. Keynote speakers include noted author Paul Hawken and Alvaro Ugalde, founder of Costa Rica's national park system. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in pre-conference training courses and post-conference field trips to local restoration sites.

Local partners include the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the International Crane Foundation, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Visit the conference website to learn more:

<http://www.ser2013.org>

### **Call for abstracts**

If you are interested in submitting an abstract for oral and poster presentations please go to the SER website for full instructions: [SER 2013 call for abstracts](#) . The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2013.

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[Read more on the RESTORE partnership.](#)

If you have any news items for us please email by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013: [restore@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:restore@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



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