

# Revival of the European river restoration Community of Practitioners (CoP)

Sharing best practices in river restoration



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## The origins of the CoP

In 2012 ECRR facilitated stakeholder discussion during the **6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

***ECRR at WWF6: “Protection and restoration of river ecosystems »***



TIME FOR *SOLUTIONS*

## Conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF in 2012

- *“an excellent way to move the river restoration agenda forward would be to encourage the creation of a community of practice (CoP)”*
- *“members would share their progress and experiences”*

# A community of practice (CoP) was born

- **5 rivers basins** : Irpin basin (Ukraine), Arpa river (Armenia), Northwest river basin (UK), Duero basin (Spain), Rhone (France)
- Facilitators: ECRR and Wetlands International
- Several workshops organized, participations at the European river restoration conference.

**=> For the sharing of experience on river restoration between practitioners**



“River restoration is about experimenting and learning.”

*Matt Kondolf, 1995*

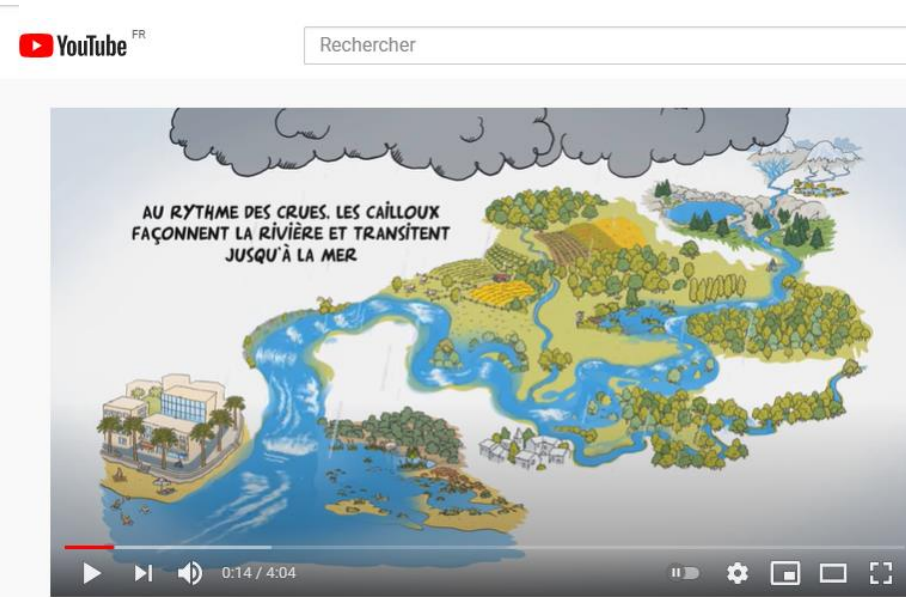
# The CoP has evolved

- Since 2012 the CoP has changed a few times.
- Over the past years, there have been 3 active members with Olly Southgate from UK and Benoit Terrier from France from the original CoP, later joined by Polona Pengal REVIVO (Slovenia)
- The activities of the CoP have always continued, bringing **multiple benefits** to its members

# Benefits of the CoP

## Examples from the past years:

- **Field excursion to restoration sites around Lyon** (learning about river restoration practice and transferring to a case study in Slovenia)
- **Translation of French awareness raising videos to different EU languages to increase the reach**




# Benefits of the CoP

## Examples from the past years:


- **Sharing knowledge and experience** in river restoration practice (Nature Based Solutions) with the **NAIAD consortium** and the interested Slovenian public
- **Sharing communications tools, cases studies, real life experience from practitioners**, to enthuse and motivate others to do more for both people and the environment in FR, ENG and SLO
- **Sharing knowledge and experience of policy changes** required for mainstreaming river restoration at the **Slovenian Water Days**
- **Sharing best match case studies from ENG and FRA with Slovenian engineers and decision makers** as a proposal for the Pšata River management challenge

# Example of communication tool

- A Facebook page where case studies are continuously shared



An aerial photograph showing a river restoration project in a rural landscape. The river flows through a valley, with a large section of the riverbed and banks being actively worked on. A yellow excavator and other machinery are visible on the right side of the river, engaged in earthmoving or construction work. The surrounding area is a mix of green fields, trees, and rolling hills. A 'Modifier' button is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

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# The revival of the CoP

## **Plan to expand and further develop activities of the CoP :**

- New members welcomed
- Looking for new ideas to improve the sharing of knowledge and learning
- Setting up a storyline of the CoP on the ECRR website (lessons learned from projects for example)
- Have on-line live meetings or when possible in-person meetings with site visits at least once a year
- Set up a forum or chat room on the ECRR website where experts or ECRR members could ask/answer questions on river restoration
- Promote river restoration outside of ECRR

# Example of communication tool

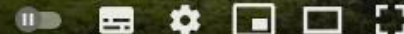
Empowering communities and landowners to make a real difference to their local environment



Rechercher



0:02 / 7:03



Farming, nature recovery & natural flood management. Working together



**Thank you for your  
attention !**

