

Field excursion 4: ERRC2014 – SEE River Project Event

Fish migration and river restoration at Danube tributaries

The field trip will focus on fish passes and river restoration projects in the province of Lower Austria near the city of Melk (one hour from Vienna). We will visit three mid-sized tributaries to the Danube, the pre-Alpine rivers Pielach, Melk and Traisen. These tributaries resemble crucial habitats for the Danube fish fauna and provide them suitable spawning and juvenile habitats.

The trip presents the concepts and experiences gained in the course of restoration projects executed over the last 20 years, where blocked or deteriorated migration routes as well as morphological structures were gradually improved in the rivers Pielach and Melk:

Different types of fish passes will be presented and discussed concerning their functionality and effect, as they were monitored over years after construction. Moreover, different sites with varying morphological conditions will be visited: reference sites - heavily regulated sections - local restoration measures.

The final stop will be made at the river Traisen where the lower section is currently being completely reworked. In this EU-LIFE project, the Traisen will get a fully new formed river bed at a length of 9.4 km. Constructions started in 2013 and will last until 2019. We will visit the upper part of the restoration project which is currently under construction.

Tentative timing: 8:30 Start at from Tech Gate Vienna (conference venue);
Lunch at typical restaurant near Melk (*included!*);
18:30 Arrival at Tech Gate Vienna;

Field trip hosts and guides:

Government of Lower Austria - Department for Water Engineering;
Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management and *Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering* – both BOKU University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences;
Freiwasser Consultants for Ecology, Engineering and Water Management;



Common nase © IHG



Danube salmon at spawning site © IHG



Rebuilt mouth of Pielach river restoring the

migration from/into the Danube © G.Pock



Pielach floodplain (Neubach nature reserve) © IHG

Restoration of Melk river © Freiwasser

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Fish migration passes on Pielach and Melk rivers

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EU LIFE project TRAISEN in March 2014 © Freiwasser