

European river community of practice (CoP)

Feedback on the workshop held in Leon, in September 2014

Public participation and stakeholders involvement in river restoration

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On behalf of fellow CoP
colleagues



CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL DUERO



Tuesday 28th October, Vienna

6TH WORLD WATER FORUM

ECRR at WWF6: Protection and restoration of river ecosystems

Apply land use planning, land development and
land banking as tools for River Restoration



TIME FOR **SOLUTIONS**

Five river basins applied for CoP..

Irpın basin, Ukraine

Arpa river, Armenia

River Irwell, UK

Duero basin (Orbigo), Spain

Rhone, France

Facilitators: ECRR, DLG, WI

Why a workshop on public engagement and stakeholders involvement ?

- River restoration is often not well understood and can be seen as a drastic change from past practice.
- Much more than a technically sound project is usually needed to convince that action is required.

The question of public participation and stakeholders involvement is central to the emergence of good river restoration projects.

=> That theme was chosen to share best practices within the CoP in the Leon workshop.



Key messages from the workshop organized in Leon

“Recognising and incorporating the views of our communities is an integral component of any river restoration project.

Our communities must be a part of the process from the very beginning as it is them that will protect and enhance it in the future.”

phrased by the Irwell river basin



Understanding the territory of the river and its inhabitants (bottom up approach)

Sociological studies (with interviews), public consultation meetings, workshops can help to understand:

- How the river is seen by local inhabitants and by the different stakeholders.
- **What are the needs of the territory** (health and safety: flooding, water quality... - leisure: fishing, walking... - urbanism...)
- What are the **possible benefits and difficulties** that may come with the river restoration projects (temporary, more long term / conflicts between different water uses).
- How to build a truly **integrated project**.

Spending time on communication

- It may be time consuming and require many meetings but the **time spent on involving communities is essential to gain public support.**
- Provide the opportunity for **private initiative** (e.g. Irpin basin)
- Use a **historical perspective**, to gain more legitimacy and place river restoration project into the context of the catchment history (e.g. Rhone Basin).
- An **institutional framework** can help.
- **Be patient and innovative** in the way you communicate

Innovative meetings

- **‘Bacon Butties Mornings’** to encourage the farmers to **attend workshops** in Yorkshire and **early morning walks** to see the wildlife.
- Kayaking or rafting to **give an inside view of the river** to stakeholders in the Alps.



Workshop on the Irpin river



Stakeholders meeting
on the river Rhone



Public participation on
the Orbigo river Basin



A visit on the Irwell river Basin

Engaging with children

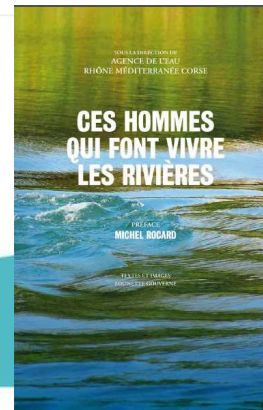
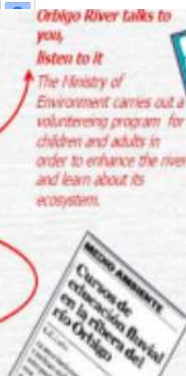
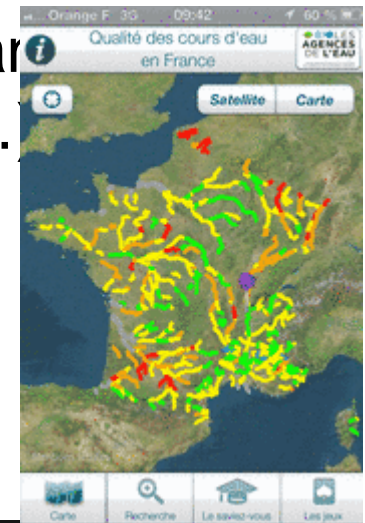
- **Take the technical and scientific aspects out of work** when sharing dialogue with local kids. After all children just want to know if it's safe, clean, healthy and fun! (Irwell basin)
- Be innovative in your engagement techniques (e.g. **x factor type auditions for river model designs**, biodiversity...)



Examples of activities with children on the theme of river restoration within the CoP

Proactive communicating through the media

- Through **press release, publications...**
- Through **professional videos** (time lapse animations...)
- Making the best of the Internet (articles, photos and videos on Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, blogs...)



An aerial photograph showing a river restoration project. The river flows through a landscape with dense green trees on the left and a mix of green and yellow trees on the right. A large, light-colored, sandy or gravelly area is visible in the center, likely a restoration site. The text "River Restoration" is overlaid in a large, blue, outlined font.

River
Restoration

is **4**
People

A Facebook page for the community of practice

facebook

Adresse électronique ou téléphone

Mot de passe

Garder ma session active

Mot de passe oublié ?

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2014



European River Restoration Community
Communauté

Journal À propos Photos Mentions J'aime Vidéos

PERSONNES >
10 mentions J'aime

À PROPOS >
Sharing knowledge and experiences is an important part of delivering river restoration projects

PHOTOS >


PUBLICATIONS SUR LA PAGE >

European River Restoration Community a partagé un lien.
16 octobre

6th ERRC, Vienna October '14

See the latest conference newsletter on <http://www.errc2014.eu/>.

The ECRR organises the 6th edition of the European River Restoration Conference, integrated with the Final event of the SEE River project. This ...
Afficher la suite



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The 6th edition of the European River Restoration Conference, integrated with the Final event of the SEE River project, will be held from 27 - 29 October in TechGate in Vienna. An optional one day field excursion will be organised to several inspiring locations nearby on 30 October. The 2nd European...

Thank you for your attention

“River restoration is for people”



ECRR's CoP Public Participation meeting
Orbigo River, León (Spain) September 2014