

Annual (Financial) Report 2020

Approved in the GMM 2021 on 10 November 2021



1. Board

In 2020 the Board has met 7 times in formal Board Meetings. These meetings were held virtually by conference calls. The priority Board tasks were to follow-up the GMM2019 actions concerning the River Continuity Restoration Survey, the workplan 2020 and the European River Symposium 2021.

Other Board actions in 2020 concerned:

- the drafting of the ECRR Funding Strategy,
- the Position Paper on the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade,
- strengthening the contacts with the International Water/River Commissions,
- contacts with the potential member Finnish Freshwater Foundation,
- the involvement in the LIFE Dordogne project,
- the participation in the Blue Rivers Consortium preparations for a Horizon 2020 project proposal on the EC Biodiversity Strategy implementation,
- the organization of the GMM2020,
- the MICS project (Measuring Impact of the Citizen Science) and
- the participation in the research/policy project proposal in the framework of the Biodivrestore call, the project QUACE (Quantifying Upscaling and Communicating the Effects of River Restoration in a Pan-European Scale).

Information on these items can be found in other chapters of this report.

2. Operational activities.

Website.

In continuation to the preparations in 2019 the renewed ECRR Website was launched in February 2020. This new website is user friendly, restricted to essential information, suitable for desktop, tablet, and phone and moreover technically much easier to operate and update. Moreover, the connection of the website with the social media has also been renewed. This all together appears, given the many positive reactions a big success.

Newsletters

ECRRNetwork eNews

In 2020 the ECRRNetwork Enews was six times issued. This is a realistic frequency in relation to the news ECRR has to offer. The frequency may become higher in the future when (more) news can be provided about the ERS2021, the publication of the River Continuity Restoration Survey and ECRR involvement in the Dordogne project.

ECRR Technical Newsletter

The ECRR newsletter was issued twice in 2020, one in February and one in November. Both were thematic, with the first on Riverine Ecosystem management and the second on River Ecosystem Restoration. Many positive responses were received and suggestions for other thematic issues were done such like Floodplain vegetation and forest management, nature based solutions and flood risk management and Free flowing rivers and prioritization of river continuity restoration measures.

River Wiki

UK, Norway, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Finland and Poland are using the River Wiki. Members are being asked to increase the entries and use. And a user group is formed through The-RRC.

Twitter account

In 2020 the number of followers of the twitter account @ECRRNetwork increased from 1050 to 1250. This was mainly due to linking the account to the Mailchimp Marketing platform, enabling to generate tweets as well when sending out an eNews issue.

There was already a, RESTORE initiated LinkedIn group Restoring Europe's Rivers, with about 500 followers. An ECRR LinkedIn page is now also created and both are increasingly used by ECRR and fortunately also others!

Facebook

ECRR has no Facebook account. However, in the past ECRR initiated a River Restoration Community of Practice amongst a number of River Basin Authorities. A few representatives of them run a Facebook account of the European River Restoration Community. They approached ECRR in 2019 for (more) contacts and if possible support. Could be a.o. a webpage on our site.

Youtube

ECRR has a (new) Youtube channel replacing the RESTORE one, although the RESTORE one is still in use as it is holding a.o. presentations from the past conferences.

Communication with ECRR members and newsletter / network subscribers.

Although, in 2019 it was a target for 2020 to analyse and evaluate the type of contacts and increasingly more views and downloads, this has not been carried out and should therefore be done in 2021.

Moreover, the idea is to add a hidden page to the Extranet with information about the Member representatives, e.g, biography, position, personal professional interest in relation to river restoration / the ECRR has not been considered and thus not been implemented. This has also to be reconsidered in 2021.

Board Advice and Coordinator operations.

This task was on a voluntary basis done by one person, part time (ca. 50% fte in 2020). This is the reason for requiring a volunteer communications officer, as the coordinator needs to be able to pass some tasks to them and other ECRR members.

3. ECRR Workplan 2020.

As in February Covid-19 appeared life in Europe, as all over the globe, was heavily effected by the prevention measures taken by the national governments. The effects on the ECRR activities were mainly that international travelling and face to face meetings were cancelled. This affected mainly the GMM2020, which could not be held in Oslo in combination with a national river restoration seminar as originally planned. Moreover, a number of international river (restoration) events could not be visited as they were cancelled or postponed. Only a very few were, as a replacement, virtually held. As far as visited, a short report is included in this annual report.

ECRR Members Meetings

ECRR GMM2020

As the ECRR GMM2020 could not be held in Oslo in September the meeting was rescheduled to 26 November and was held as a webinar. The meeting consisted of three parts.

A. The formal GMM2020

Next to the regular items of the GMM a number of specific items were addressed and when needed approved in the meeting. The most important ones were the membership application of

the Finnish Freshwater Foundation (approved), ECRR's Funding Strategy (discussed and actions agreed), workplan 2020 progress (monitored and discussed), draft work plan and budget 2021 (discussed) and the European River Symposium 2021 (endorsed).

B. River Continuity Survey (results) presentation

The first results of the River Continuity (Restoration) Survey with 26 participants were presented by the STOWA intern Sharelle Verheij. The first conclusion is the impressive participation by the countries through the relevant ministries and environmental agencies. Although, approaching the countries was very targeted, the positive responses are really surprising. Even more surprising are the survey results concerning the various aspects which were captured by 65 survey questions concerning many detailed data and/or information on river continuity restoration policies and planning.

A reflection on the survey and the results were given by Tom Buijse (Deltares) and Martijn van Staveren (Wageningen University Research) and Josée Peress (Agency for Biodiversity France) and Saija Koljonen (Environment Institute Finland) as initiators and Steering Committee Members for the project. They started the discussion on the conclusions and recommendations of the survey as a basis for new policy, planning and implementation developments. Results of Survey showed that the biggest driver to restore rivers is the WFD, followed by national efforts to improve fish migration by fish passes and bypasses. The challenge to make river restoration is the water use for electricity production followed by agriculture sector pressures. Martin Janes closed the session announcing a meeting of all the countries participating in the survey to evaluate the process and to discuss next steps that could be taken towards more and better river continuity restoration activities.

C. ECRR Matters!

This part gave a space to present the several initiatives/projects that ECRR is involved in either through the Board and members. These initiatives and projects will be described in other sections of this annual report.

The European River Symposium 2021.

IAWD and ECRR are the main organisers of the conference, together with WWFCEE and IRF. By the end of 2020, the symposium partnership was revived and extended with 15 partner organisations now. Furthermore, an inventory of possible programme elements was made and a first programme schedule prepared as a basis for the European Rivers and Wetlands Symposium 2021, with the under title "EU Biodiversity Strategy and Green Deal shaping Europe's water management. The symposium is to be held on 26/27 May 2021 as a webinar.

EU Environment Partnership Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey

Bart Fokkens participated on behalf of the ECRR in a two day workshop of this workshop on 22 and 23 September 2020. He gave two presentations:

A. Natural Water Retention Measures

B. Hydro-morphological measures and ecosystem services

In the workshop participated about 30 representatives of the countries involved in the programme. The workshop was very stimulating as the participants were very eager to learn more about the aspects of the Water Framework Directive implementation.

Steering group for the River continuity Survey

Saija Koljonen (Syke), Josée Peress (OFB), Arjan Berkhuisen (WFMF) and Yurena Lorenzo (WIEA) formed the Steering Group for the River Continuity Survey and did the preparatory work on the survey questionnaire. Both ensured a high quality of both the questionnaire and the survey process.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

Lead by Anders (EA Norway) and Danko Thalmeinerová (Min. Env. Slovakia) all members contributed to an ECRR Position paper on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This led to an application to become a Supporting Partner of the UN Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 which was approved on 25 November 2020 by the UN.

Promotion and awareness raising

Meeting of the permanent secretaries of the international Water Commissions

Through the organization of the European River Symposia ECRR had already good contacts with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (ICPDR) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR). There are in total 8 International Water Commissions, with a permanent secretariat, 6 of them being International River Commissions and two of them for International Waters. The general secretaries of the commissions meet each other annually as an informal platform to discuss common issues and exchanging experiences. Through contacts with the secretary of this platform ECRR was together with the UNECE invited to deputize someone for the meeting in August 2020 and to present their organization and giving a presentation relevant to the platform. ECRR coordinator Bart Fokkens, was by the ECRR Board asked to fulfil this role. Due to Covid-19 the meeting was held virtually, but the agenda of the meeting was very well adapted to the two presentations of the invited guests. For the ECRR the (structure and functioning of) the Association was presented, followed by the presentation of the ECRR WFD Fitness Check submission, ECRR's Statement on the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the ECRR support to the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade, the ongoing River Continuity Survey and the plans for the European River Symposium 2021. The much-appreciated presentation was followed by constructive discussing leading to the participation of the International River Commission organizing a session at the ERS2021.

Information and communication

WFD Refit response

ECRR's WFD Fitness Check submission was widely communicated and distributed with a.o. 10.000 downloads from ECRR's website. Moreover, ECRR receiving many positive responses to this submission.

ECRR Position Paper

ECRR's Position Paper appears to be a very useful document, as it can simply be sent to those who are asking for more information on the ECRR. Meanwhile it is to be considered of making an updated version.

External Communications Centre role

Horizon 2020 MICS (Measuring Impact Citizen Science).

ECRR to begin to disseminate application of Citizen Science to river restoration. This is in addition to the two articles in the ECRR Technical Newsletters already published.

Representation and participation

Again, due to the Covid-19 pandemic there were no life events that could be visited. However, there were virtual events, sometimes instead and sometimes by occasion.

Amber Final Event

The Amber final event was held on June 29 as a webinar with nearly 600 participants from 65 countries. Representatives of members, ECRRNetwork members and ECRR coordinator Bart Fokkens participated in the webinar. The webinar gave a good overview of the results of the project, being the AMBER Magazin, Let it Flow, different types of deliverables as the barrier atlas

and the barrier tracker, various webinars and workshops, publications, policy briefs, tools and an AMBER Field Manual. This is all together a tremendous information and knowledge contribution on the fragmentation and the possible improvement of Europe's rivers.

18th Europe-INBO 2020

The proceeding of this virtual conference held on 9/10 November were adapted to the circumstances. ECRR Coordinator participated in this conference with a special interactive workshop on New CAP: an opportunity for water policies. Other interactive workshops were: The European partnership "Waterforall" and the The City-basin Dialogue and a webinar "How water digital innovations can benefit to River Basin Organisations". Nearly 300 persons from 47 countries participated in the conference.

4. ECRR Member's activities 2020

(NC=National Centre; TC=Topic Centre)

All	Contributed to the ECRR Statement on the EC Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Strategy on the Ecosystem Restoration Decade.
NC Sweden	RCS Questionnaire GMM2020
NC France	Steering Group River Continuity Survey; Preparation of (English) communication materials on RR; National Seminar on NWRM 13 February 2020 with a summary in English see: http://www.river-restoration.onema.fr/content/french-national-river-restoration-center#events Produced a summary in English of the international seminar on dam removal and Selune river see: http://www.river-restoration.onema.fr/content/french-national-river-restoration-center#events Input to the ECRR work plan 2020-21 : 4 th edition of the IS Rivers Conference in June 2022 and 4 webinars planned as a warming up in 2021 with the ECRR Network to identify local river managers and practitioners. RCS Questionnaire GMM2020
NC Poland	RCS Questionnaire GMM2020
NC Italy	GMM2020
NC Norway	National River Restoration Seminar 2020 with about 400 participant.; 16 projects were uploaded to the RiverWiki. Translation of the Amber Barrier Tracker was initiated RCS Questionnaire GMM2020
NC Ukraine	Not available
NC Finland	Steering Group River Continuity Survey National River Restoration Conference;

	Uploaded Wiki projects GMM2020
NC Russia	RCS QUestionnaire Production 2 Technical Newsletter; Co-editing 2 Technical Newsletter; GMM2020
NC UK	National River Restoration Conference; Operation and maintenance of the RiverWiki / Database English, technical RR communication materials; Uploaded RiverWiki projects MICS project; 1 Technical Newsletter article GMM2020;
NC Netherlands	Hosted ECRR Intern for River Continuity Survey Project Group RCS Survey
TC Fishmigration	Steering Group River Continuity Survey GMM2020;
TC INBO	Europe-INBO2020 Conference, Webinar Malta 300 participants and 63 countries GMM2020
TC WI	Financial Support Website Upgrade Steering Group RCS Financial Support RCS GMM2020;
TC GWP	Several events, communications in English on RR in CEE

5. ECRR's Financial Reports 2020

Income, expenditure, and balance 2020

Annual Balance 2020			
Balance 1/1/2020	€	7,565.26	
Revenues			Costs
Member fees 2020	€	9,000.00	Bank costs € 157.90
			Survey Monkey € 195.00
			WIEA 1st instal. RCS € 1,240.25
			WIE 2nd instal 2019 € 1,175.00
			Zoom € 169.28
			Flowers € 31.40
			Booth € 89.42
			Web 2020 € 363.00
			Web 2021 € 363.00
			Insurances € 552.19
Total	€	9,000.00	Total € 4.262.45
			Obligations
			WIEA 2nd instal. RCS € 1,240.25
			Total € 1,240.25
			Paid for 2021
			Web € 363.00
			Total € 363.00
			Reservation
			LIFE Dordogne € 1,000.00
			Total € 1,000.00
Bankaccount 31-12-20	€	12,228.82	
Obligations	€	1,240.25	
Reserv. Dordogne	€	1,000.00	
Subtotal	€	9,988.57	
Paid for 2021	€	363.00	
Balance 31-12-2020	€	10,351,57	

Estimated Funding budget 2020

Methodology	Income 2020
Raised Income (RI)	
Grants	-
Members fees	9.000,00
Donors	
Sponsors	-
Events	-
Collaborations (WIEA)	2.500,00
On-Line income	-
Earned Income (EI)	
Project 1 - MICS	3.000,00
Project 2 - Dee LIFE	
Project 3 - Dordogne LIFE	
In-Kind Income (IK)	
Newsletter production (RosNIIVKh)	2.000,00
RiverWiki, management and updates (RRC)	7.000,00
Hosting RC survey officer (STOWA)	3.500,00
TOTAL	27.000,00

Explanatory remarks concerning costs made outside the justified and presented funding budget.

- ✓ Board members and coordinator have no (direct) costs claimed made for the regular fulfilling of the activities in relation to their position with the ECRR.

Participants of the Virtual ECRR General Members Meeting on 26 November 2020.

6. ECRR's Members in 2020

Italian Centre for River Restoration

The River Restoration Centre

Iberian Centre for River Restoration

Finnish Environment Institute

Russian Institute for Integrated Water Management and Protection

Foundation for Applied Research STOWA

Norwegian Environment Agency

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Institute for Water Problems and Land Reclamation

*Department of Hydraulic Engineering of the Warsaw University
of Life Sciences*

French Agency for Biodiversity

International Network of Basin Organisations

Wetlands International European Association

World Fish Migration Foundation

Finnish Freshwater Foundation

Italy

United Kingdom

Spain

Finland

Russia

Netherlands

Norway

Sweden

Ukraine

Poland

France

France

Netherlands

Netherlands

Finland

