

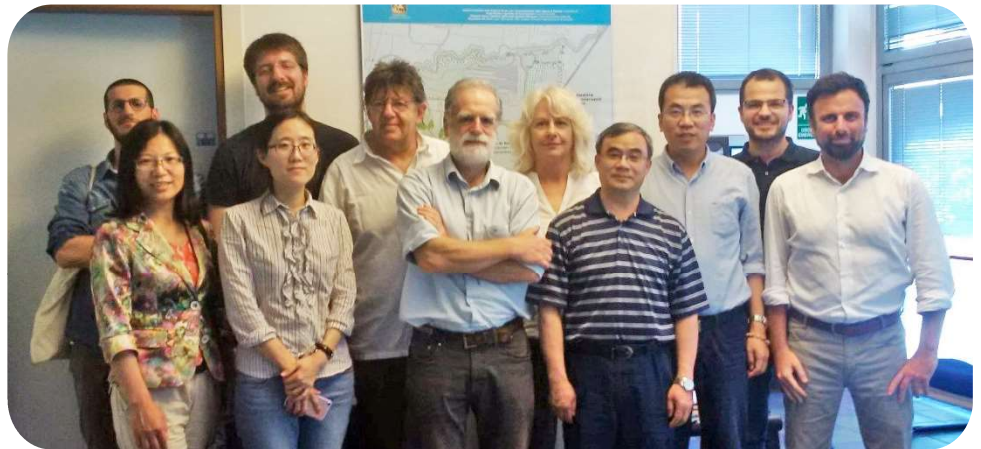
The Italian Centre for River Restoration (Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale – CIRF)

CIRF was established in 1999 as a not-for-profit technical-scientific association. The founding members were a group of professionals with different backgrounds related to sustainable river management and river restoration. The headquarter is based in Venice but the organization operates through a network of experts active all around Italy.

Since its constitution the main purpose of the association has been to foster the ecological river restoration approach, in order to improve the environmental quality of water courses and to provide social and economic benefits. In line with this aims CIRF is committed in implementing different initiatives:

- increasing public awareness on river restoration benefits, through educational activities, publications and dialogue with public authorities, practitioners and researchers;
 - coordinating, promoting and supporting pilot studies and innovative projects connected with sustainable river management;
 - developing and stimulating the involvement of all subjects interested in water and land management, even providing interaction and coordination with similar international centres.
- CIRF funds its own activities through membership fees and additional financial support, pilot projects development (mainly EU funded) and training activities.

In 2006 CIRF published the Italian handbook on River Restoration, at that time and still now featuring as a milestone for supporting sustainable river management at the national scale. A few years later CIRF organized the first Italian River Restoration Conference (Sarzana, 2009) and since then the event has been repeated every three years (Bolzano, 2012; Reggio Calabria, 2015). The conferences are gathering a large



A Chinese delegation from Tianjin University and Tianjin Academy of Environmental Sciences hosted by CIRF in May 2017 in cooperation with Acque Risorgive Drainage Authority.

part of the national community actively involved in integrated river governance. Every year CIRF is committed in organizing national and regional workshops, seminars and training courses. Recently CIRF has been asked to prepare technical guidelines for environmental restoration of natural and artificial water courses at regional or catchment scale.

Currently CIRF is the reference organisation in Italy on river restoration and sustainable river management, linking research with practice and networking with other technical-scientific association and both national and local public institutions. Key issues tackled include assessing effects of management alternatives of river systems, fluvial conflict resolution, ecosystem services related to healthy rivers, identification of best practice in hydromorphological management and restoration of rivers. In Italy CIRF is also acknowledged as a relevant organization for orienting the implementation of pertinent policies supporting public authorities and practitioners and through targeted dissemination. CIRF delegates are regularly invited to institutional tables for discussing issues related to policies, regulations and guidelines on sustainable river management.



Plenary session at the 3rd Italian River restoration Conference organized by CIRF in Reggio Calabria in November 2015.



Intranational study tour on "Incised rivers and morphological restoration" organised by CIRF in Italy and Austria in October 2011 in the framework of the LIFE RESTORE project.



As an active member of relevant EU networks, CIRF can ensure transnational perspective and background, supporting the transfer of international best practices to its national context and feeding the international debate with its home country peculiarity and experience. The organization is acknowledged by ECRR as river restoration National Centre, having hosted its secretariat from 2006 to 2008, organising the 4th International

An outlook to the Calore (Lucano) gorges during the CIRF annual assembly on June 2013.



River restoration Conference in 2008 in Venice and actively contributing to the organization of the European River Restoration Conference and the European River Symposium in the following years. CIRF is also engaged with Wetlands International European Association (WIEA) and takes an active part in the Action Group on River Restoration Benefits within the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP-W) initiative.

As part of its international networking and dissemination strategy, CIRF plays a role as partner of EU funded projects. In the last few years the organization has been involved in [in WaterDiss2.0](#) (FP7 funded project), whose general objective has been to speed-up the transfer of research outputs to water management institutions, and [RESTORE](#) (LIFE funded project), addressing a shortcoming in knowledge transfer in Europe on river restoration activities. The latter has been awarded by the European Commission as one of the "Best of the Best" LIFE information projects. At moment CIRF is partner of [HyMoCARES](#) (INTERREG ALPINE SPACE funded project) and [WetNet](#) (INTERREG MED funded project), whose general objectives are respectively developing an operational framework to integrate fluvial Ecosystem Services in relation to factors affecting river hydromorphology and testing place-based voluntary governance tools for sustainable management of wetlands (including rivers).

EUROPE-INBO 2017 (20-23 SEPTEMBER 2017, DUBLIN, IRELAND)

This year, the 15th "EUROPE-INBO 2017" international conference, co-organized with the "Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives", will take place on 20-23 September 2017, Dublin (Ireland).

Organizations, administrations and other stakeholders interested in basin management are invited to participate. Activities will start on the 20th of October with a preparatory workshop on "Water data management organization and electronic reporting". It will aim to share lessons learned of previous reporting phases and to discuss on best practices and potentialities for simplification, streamlining and standardization of data provision.

The participants will also have the opportunity to share their experiences on the topics of the four roundtables organized in plenary on the 21st and 22nd of September:

- Roundtable 1: WFD, upcoming milestones: 2019 Review, 3rd RBMPs and beyond...
- Roundtable 2: Adaptation to Climate Change: Pressures, Priorities, Insurances, Impacts and Resilience of Government Agencies and Economic Sectors,
- Roundtable 3: Public Participation: Statutory Consultation for RBMP, SEA, NIS and PoMs Development and on-going Sectoral, Voluntary, NGO and Network Participation,
- Roundtable 4: New Threats to Aquatic Environments: Degradation of Natural Capital and Ecosystems, Emerging Contaminants and Hazardous Substances, Micro pollutants including Plastics entering the Food-Chain, Non-point Source Pollution, Hydromorphology, Alien Species

The works will be in English and French.

A Technical Visit will be organized for Coastal and Inland Waters in Dublin and surrounding Counties, on Saturday 23 September.

Information on the event (programmes, papers, logistics) as well as the online registration form are available on INBO website (<http://inbo-news.org/>).

The registration form is available online: <http://www.inbo-news.org/inscription/europe-inbo-2017.php>. Registration is free but compulsory!

