



# Restoring Europe's Rivers

## RESTORE Bulletin

October 2013

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### News in October

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Tweet of the month

5<sup>th</sup> ERRC Vienna

### Message from our project manager

I have had the privilege of seeing a great many inspiring examples of people making dramatic changes to rivers and estuaries during my time with RESTORE. We are on a journey; the project has shown without doubt that we have the knowledge and the will to improve our rivers and estuaries.

RESTORE has shown us all what we can achieve when we have ambition and when we engage others to work with us to achieve the vision. We need to keep those two things in front of our minds. We know working with natural processes provides many benefits not just to wildlife but to people and communities as well. Whether your goal is 1km or 1000km of improvements, I hope RESTORE has helped you understand how to engage and enthuse people to grasp the benefits of a more naturalised environment, and given you the tools to do the job.

Personally, I have watched people sharing information around Europe and seen the support gained from growing our network of river restoration contacts. The work of RESTORE will continue and your support of the ECRR will allow you to continue to grow your network of contacts. The [RiverWiki](#) is your resource to share and get recognition for your work, so please use it. And remember, the ultimate accolade could be yours. The Rhine won this year's prestigious European Riverprize but who will be next year's winner?

Thank you for the amazing support and friendship I have received from each country I have had the privilege to visit and work with on RESTORE.

*Toni Scarr*

**RESTORE Project Manager**

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## A few words from our partners

We asked our partners for their thoughts on the future of RESTORE:

"It is a great challenge for all who are involved in river restoration to make good use of the valuable legacy of the RESTORE project, in particular the data base and RiverWiki tool for river restoration cases and practices." *Bart Fokkens, Chairman, ECRR*



*RESTORE team , 5<sup>th</sup> ERRC, Vienna 2013*

" Scores of researchers, practitioners and water managers have already found the RiverWiki and the website useful for their work, and I hope to see it grow even further in the future." *Rogier Vogelij, DLR*

"The RESTORE project has allowed the river restoration community to reach out and engage with a much wider network of practitioners." *Nick Elbourne, Restoration Adviser and Communications, River Restoration Centre*

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## RESTORE: preparing for the future

With funding from LIFE+ and the Environment Agency (UK) managing the partnership, RESTORE began life in 2010 with 6 European partners and a brief to make connections between river restoration professionals in Europe.

In December 2013 RESTORE will be wrapping up and many of you are wondering what we will be doing with the tools we've developed in the past 3 years.

Since RESTORE began we have developed a [website](#) and a [RiverWiki](#), published a monthly bulletin, written [Rivers by Design](#), reviewed [EU Policy Drivers for River Restoration](#) we've organised many, many events, fieldtrips, workshops and we've held a remarkable and motivating European conference in Vienna.

*EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik was impressed by the growing body of knowledge and good practice examples that has been brought together that is essential to support the implementation of many EU policy objectives.*

This is our last RESTORE bulletin, but the ECRR will keep you updated through their newsletter (please tell us if you don't want to receive this in future). Our website will also be managed by [ECRR](#) who will continue to update it and maintain. Have you looked at our '[How to River Restoration pages](#)' or perhaps the [new guidance and case studies on environment improvements](#) that we are hosting? The really valuable and still growing repository of case studies is held in our RiverWiki. This is like Wikipedia so please add your case study. *Rivers by Design* will be updated by December and readers will still be able to download it directly from our website. Our partners will continue to hold events relating to river restoration and their contact details will remain on the website.

We hope we've met the brief we set ourselves, in fact we hope we've exceeded it. We couldn't have done this without our partners: [Italian Centre for River Restoration \(CIRF\)](#), [Finnish Environment Institute \(SYKE\)](#), [River Restoration Centre \(RRC\)](#), [Government Service for Land and Water Management \(DLG\)](#), [Wetlands International](#). The [European Centre for River Restoration \(ECRR\)](#) has provided essential support to RESTORE as a member of the Advisory Board. A particular thank you for Bart Fokkens who chairs the ECRR.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us establish our networks and to raise the profile of river restoration in Europe.

We have one more surprise for you which is the forthcoming Layman's Report '*Rivers – the art of the possible*'. which will provide you with a summary of the findings and outcomes from the RESTORE project.

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## **Ensuring fish migration in Romania**

Dr. Ecaterina Luca of the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management has written about Romania's experience in ensuring the migration of fish. Her paper discusses hydrological connectivity and also explores recent Romanian achievements in the construction of fish ladders.



Fish ladder from MHC on Valea Bistra, Barcau, b.h. Crisuri  
(photo: G. Petrescu, 2013)

Dr Luca's full paper can be read [here](#)

For further information please contact: [Ecaterina.Luca@hidro.ro](mailto:Ecaterina.Luca@hidro.ro)

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### **Final Finnish seminar**

In August 150 river restoration experts came together from Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Poland and Finland to participate in the North Regions' RESTORE Final Seminar in Lahti.

The seminar wrapped up the best approaches and restoration case studies in the northern region. The need for standardised monitoring, prioritisation measures and new restoration approaches, such as guiding dynamic erosion processes in Poland, were presented. Environmental flow, nature-like fish passages and side channels, to increase the reproduction of migratory fish stocks were also highlighted. Participants also discussed the necessity of using of green infrastructure for urban watercourses in future.

The new Finnish Watercourse Restoration Network held its third seminar at the event and the award for the year's best restoration scheme was given during a boat trip along Lake Vesijärvi.

Figure. Group photo from the North Region Seminar in Finland



The RESTORE event received excellent feedback with lots of comments about the wonderful networking opportunities for sharing river restoration knowledge and experiences. One quote sums it all up "The event was an inspiration boost that made me even more interested in this kind of work. Seeing is believing!".

For more information please contact Pinja Kasvio, SYKE [pinja.kasvio@ymparisto.fi](mailto:pinja.kasvio@ymparisto.fi)

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### **Tweet of the month**

**RESTORE rivers\_@RESTORErivers**

[RESTORE rivers @RESTORErivers 3 Oct](#)

Vienna 2013 conference artist Christian Ridder distilled the byzantine world of river restoration into this <http://ow.ly/pnKGj>



## ERRC 2013 Visual Summary

by Christian Ridder

This conference has addressed many topics on the state of our rivers,  
how we could restore and improve this  
and how we already bring this into practice.



Christian Ridder – ERRC 2013 Visual Summary

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### And finally, if you didn't make it to the 5th European River Restoration Conference...

...you can still experience it through our [website](#) because we've uploaded all the session videos and papers.

Take a look at the following:

#### River Talk Series

A series of interviews featuring Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment; Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency; Matthew Reddy, CEO of the International River Foundation and more. All interviews were conducted on the occasion of the European River Restoration Conference held in Vienna from 11-13 September 2013. [Watch Videos](#).

#### Conference Photos

The conference photos are currently being gathered and placed on a Google Drive. We thank the photographer Krisztian Juhasz ([www.viennamotion.at](http://www.viennamotion.at)) for capturing the event. [View photos](#).

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[Read more on the RESTORE partnership.](#)

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The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of  
the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



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