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**Introduction**

Dear ECRR members,

We thank the members who have sent us information or copy and we hope others will feel stimulated to write articles or just send us tips and information for the next newsletters. For the new secretariat – DLG - it has been a first year of getting used to the normal course of the ECRR and being acquainted with the key-players of the ECRR. We also met some individual members during the seminar in Bucharest.

Our products in near future will be a first blueprint of National Centres, a page of Frequently Asked Questions on the website and a newsletter.

In the meantime new policies were launched due to the economic crises in several European countries. It makes the aims of the ECRR for sustainable and ecological oriented management of rivers and streams even more challenging. Developments of measures and practises based on low-cost and higher cost-effectiveness have become more urgent now. Enhancing and promotion of river restoration works and exchange of information throughout Europe is even more needed.

Fortunately the international conference on climate –change in Cancun just had a happy end in the way that all the participating countries will cooperate towards meeting the set objectives in the future in order to create a healthier environment.

The Secretariat would also like to invite you to visit the website, that have had some alterations during previous months.

We hope that you enjoy surfing through the website, and benefit from the informative sources that are available.

Do not hesitate to recommend the ECRR website also to your colleagues. If anything may be unclear to you, please contact the secretariat.

Also on behalf of our chairman Bart Fokkens we wish you a very good 2011,

Secretariat ECRR

### Case study of Gandum

(Tagus basin, Portugal)



Natural reach

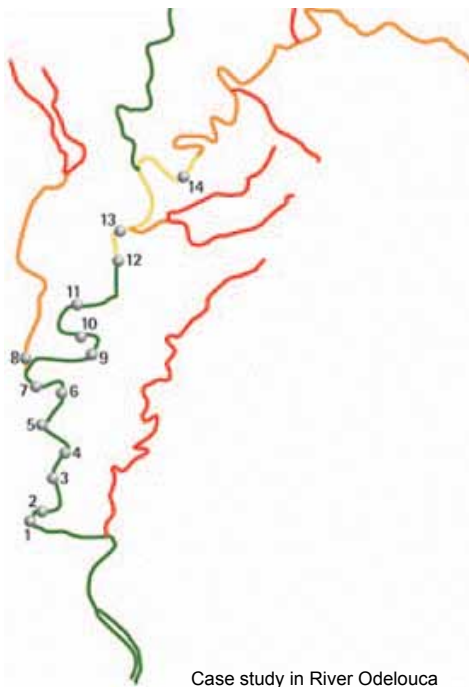


Restoration works

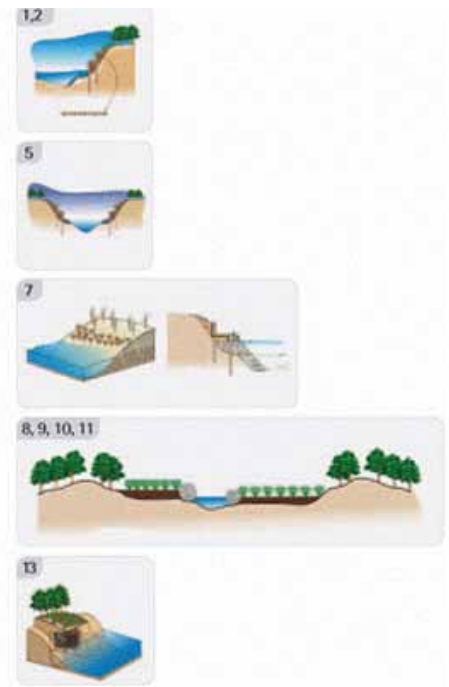
The Gandum river is located in the lowland part of the Tagus basin. It was restored under a EU-project INTERREG (<http://www.rapidurable.eu/>). Natural sites in the region were used to benchmark the restoration actions. The disturbed stretch was half-channelised, with eroding banks occupied by impoverished flora and invaded by giant reeds, with extensive clear cutting of the riparian woods. Invertebrates and other aquatic animals showed also poor ecological quality. Land use around constrained the river corridor with pollutants and direct human pressures on the banks and water. Diagnosis was made using different biological indicators.

Recovery (2006-2007) took place in an extension of 1700 m length including removal of vegetated invasive materials around natural woody vegetation and on banks, cleaning of river bed in areas with vegetation encroachment to allow the original ecological river functions, giant reed control with herbicides and reconstruction of the natural riparian woody vegetation, insertion of nature trails along the river banks.

### Case study of River Odelouca, Algarve



Case study in River Odelouca



The Odelouca river belongs to the Arade basin and is located in the Algarve region (Portugal). It is a typical Mediterranean river with large flow fluctuations yearly and throughout years. Upstream areas of the basin remain near natural. However, below a recent reservoir (upstream site 14 in Figure), the valley enlarges and is occupied by irrigated orchards. The river was channelized in many parts, and riparian vegetation cut for most part resulting in changes of the morphological structure and river processes. The reservoir upstream is used for water supply but also promotes flow regulation.

View of degraded segment in Odelouca river



In the ongoing EU project Ricover (<http://www.ricover.eu/>), about 7 km of river length will be restored (2010-2012, see Figure), including reshaping and stabilisation of banks and reconstruction of the riparian woods. Prior to restoration, all biological and physical elements were surveyed, and they will be monitored in the next years. Also attached is the Seminar of February program, the leaflet is being made to circulate as soon as possible

So much for the news  
Teresa Ferreira (Portugal)

## The annual NCR days at Amsterdam

### The Netherlands Centre for River Studies

The Netherlands Centre for River Studies (NCR) organised the annual seminar on the 2nd and 3rd of November in Amsterdam. Several interesting presentations were given of ongoing surveys on various subjects concerning river management. Some more theoretical issues were presented as well as more practical experiences were illustrated. Some specific lectures will be elaborated in a short article for one of the ECRR newsletters in the nearby future.

The focus was on the subjects:

- Sediment budgets and depositional patterns in the Dutch Delta;
- Biogeochemistry and geomorphology of rivers under environmental change;
- The Delta model of Deltares, that is currently being developed;
- Alignment of scientific research and knowledge urgently needed for river management issues derived from international research agenda's, EU directives and national policies.

The NCR is a cooperation of the major developers and users of expertise in the Netherlands in the area of rivers, with a view to:

- Achieving a rivers expertise potential of sufficient breadth and depth in the Netherlands, in order effectively to meet societal requirements, both nationally and internationally;
- Establishing and reinforcing the position of Dutch scientific research into rivers, for instance with a view to fund-raising for such research, nationally and internationally;
- Strengthening the partners' position;
- Enhancing education and scientific research at Dutch universities.

NCR's organisational structure is that of an alliance between the participating parties; Alterra, WUR, IHE, Deltares, Universities of Twente, Utrecht, Nijmegen and Delft.

NCR's organisation exists of:

- A Supervisory Board, comprising the partners' directors, who meet annually and functions as a general steering group;
- A Programme Committee, comprising 1 senior officer from each partner, meeting at least twice a year to draw up the framework programme for planned research and for progress evaluation;
- A programming secretary, making at least 40% of his time available for NCR. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of NCR and contacts with the partners, with respect to planned research, the Programme Committee and the Supervisory Board.

More information is to be found on the website: [www.ncr-web.org](http://www.ncr-web.org).

## IWRM-NET Final Conference

(Brussels, 1-3 December 2010)

IWRM-NET has held its final conference in Brussels from 1-3 December 2010. IWRM-NET is a five year (2006-2010) project within the European Research Area (ERA-Net) and funded by the European Commission and aimed to implement new collaborative research activities at the national and regional levels related to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) with a focus on the Water Framework Directive. The final conference was attended by 70-80 participants.

On Day 1 European water research needs and challenges and Research coordination were the major topics. The discussion on research needs was introduced by presentations from DG Environment, DG Research and ONEMA. DG Environment addressed the research demands linked to the

WFD implementation and its Common Implementation Strategy, DG Research indicated that the upcoming FP8 RTD programme will probably put more emphasis on innovation besides research and ONEMA addressed the research needs from a national perspective in France and presented the interface between science and policy at the European Level (CIS-SPI). Experience with and need for research coordination came besides the Joint Programming Initiative and WSSTP also from Australia.

Day 2 focussed on science to support water policy and management with an overview of IWRM-Net achievements and future plans were presented as well short presentations of the projects financed by IWRM-NET partners. At present it is not yet clear whether and if so how IWRM-NET will continue. To maintain

and facilitate the communication with its network IWRM-NET has launched a virtual community tool for discussion and communication. Interested people can join through the following link <http://iwrn-net.europeanwatercommunity.eu>. Regarding the projects funded by IWRM-NET partners, IWRM-NET will put more emphasis on the interaction between the projects through scientific coordination. This is based on experiences from the first call where there has been too little communication. Three funded projects gave either a demonstration (Forecaster) or ran workshops on Day 3 (KNAC, I-FIVE)). The presentations from the meeting can be downloaded from <http://www.iwrn-net.eu>

*Tom Buijse  
Deltares*

## Events

### II SEMINAR ON RIVER RESTORATION

Date: 7 March 2011, LNEC, Lisbon

Organized by the Portuguese Water Resources Association, APRH.

#### Preliminary program (<http://www.aprh.pt/>):

9:15-9:30	Welcome remarks – Maria Teresa Ferreira, APRH	14:00-14:45	Henk Feith, ALTRI Portugal– Managing and restoring rivers in forested areas: the experience of stakeholders
9:30-10:15	Felix Frances. Universidade Politécnicade Valencia– Defining environmental flows – the RIPFLOW model and its applications	14:45-15:00	Marta Gonzalez Tanago Univ. Politecnica Madrid– The National River Restoration Strategy in Spain
10:15-10:30	Vice-President of the National Water Institute – The partnership of the water administration in RIPFLOW project as end-user	15:00-15:45	Francisca Aguiar Centro de Estudos Florestais, UTL– Ecological quality assessment and restoration of the riparian structure and functions
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	15:45-16:30	DEBATE
11:00-11:45	Gregory Egger Umweltbüro Klagenfurt – Long term effect of river restoration measurements to floodplain vegetation – case studies from Austria	16:30	Coffee and display of RIPFLOW model outputs
11:45-12:30	Gertrud Haivogl Universidade de Viena, BOKU – Restoring large rivers functions: the role of historical reference conditions	TRIP Tuesday 8: Visit to River Restoration sites of ALTRI in Arrepiado area, Tagus Valley	
12:30- 12:45	President of the Tejo Water Administration - Restoration of rivers: the role of the regional water administration	8:00	Departure visit to the river restoration sites Late snack lunch
12:45-14:00	Lunch	16:00	Return to Lisbon
		Fees:	50 euros non-APRH, 25 euros APRH
		More information please send an email to: <a href="mailto:terferreira@isa.utl.pt">terferreira@isa.utl.pt</a>	

### Start of Introductory Course on River Restoration

for decision-makers in Spanish; 2 weeks ; distant learning: INBO, ECRR&CIREF  
24 January 2011

For any question, please contact Idoia: [idoia.goikoetxea@cirefluvial.com](mailto:idoia.goikoetxea@cirefluvial.com)  
[http://www.cirefluvial.com/en/news\\_view.php?id=88](http://www.cirefluvial.com/en/news_view.php?id=88)

### 7th international SedNet Event

6-9 April 2011. Venice, Italy.

Hosted and co-organised by Thetis SpA. “Sediments and Biodiversity: bridging the gap between science and policy”

### The Status and Future of the World's Large Rivers

11 - 14 April 2011. Vienna, Austria.

### 12th RRC Annual Conference at the University of Nottingham

14 April 2011. Nottingham University, UK. Optional site visit 15 April

## Call for articles

The newsletter of the ECRR should also be a way to share with one another what interesting work is being done or information about seminars or literature can be given when talking about ecological river management. One way of doing this is by writing an article of any project, event or literature you may be acquainted with. Send this article (**maximum of 500 words**) to the secretariat of the ECRR at [info@ecrr.org](mailto:info@ecrr.org).

We will take a close look to the content and if it is coherent with the philosophy of ECRR (ecological river restoration and sharing knowledge) your article will be published with pleasure in the next edition (s) of the ECRR Newsletter.

The secretariat of the ECRR hopes to receive any article on ecological river restoration from any of its members.