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Introduction

Dear all,

The year of 2014 is already nearing the summer period; and lots of activities have already been performed or are planned for the coming months.

After issuing our special edition newsletter about our River Restoration conference in Vienna last year, I am happy to announce that this autumn, the next European River Restoration conference will again be organized in Vienna, Austria. This time the conference will also be the final event for the SEE project, with whom we are working together closely. And again for this event ECRR will cooperate with the Internatinal River Foundation who will be organising the awarding of the second European RiverPrize alongside the conference. You will find an article about this in the newsletter.

Apart from that, this newsletter will report on various other issues and activities that have been performed.

The secretariat received several interesting articles. One articles describes the Cumbria river restoration program, another highlights the IRF twinning initiative on sharing experiences about river restoration,by learning and creating partnerships. In addition you can read more about the next IRF European RiverPrize 2014, that will be organised alongside the conference again.

From the Netherlands we have received an article about the Community of Practice for Remeandering Streams, which gives us an overview of its history, targets and activities.

Apart from these articles the newsletter, as always, contains the event calendar, with some very interesting events coming up. I wish you pleasant readings.

Hil R. Kuypers
Secretary ECRR



Cumbria River Restoration

The exciting English Cumbria River Restoration project includes collaboration between a wide range of partners to deliver significant environmental improvements in England's Lake district. This involves undertaking restoration projects for three protected SSSI/SAC catchments of the Eden, Derwent and Kent.

Many sections of river in the Eden catchment have been straightened and modified, and in partnership with the Eden Rivers Trust we are developing projects to return sections of the river to their natural courses, restoring geomorphic processes and improving habitat. A modified section of the River Leith (key tributary of the



Figure 1

Eden) has recently undergone a makeover after 1km of straightened river was put back into its historic paleo channel.

Figure 1 shows the River Leith in the Eden catchment during a flood as water temporarily flows through the pre-straightened course. The photograph demonstrates that in high flows the river is already attempting to go back to its old course. This project aims to simply encourage this occurrence by digging out the old channel and officially reconnecting it back to the watercourse upstream. Figure 2 shows the newly constructed channel before reconnection.



Figure 2

Community of Practice “Remeandering Streams” in the Netherlands

History

In the summer of 2007 the Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) initiated the start of the CoP Remeandering, by organizing a meeting with practitioners and scientists. The Cop's aim is to exchange best practices, experiences and knowledge about restoration of small rivers and streams. The group decided to formulate mutual questions to better connect science and practice. And to start up with common events, around river restoration pilots and thus build up and share experiences. It was agreed to focus mainly on the hydromorphological aspects, knowing that no other Dutch organisations were active on that subject at the time. Also it was decided to organize field visits and discuss experiences on special cases. The “CoP-hermeandering



beken” was born. Since then over 10 fieldtrips and 5 thematic meetings have been organised.

Target(group)

Over the last years the long list of participants grew. The CoP includes now ca 160 representatives of both regional and national water authorities, DLG, scientific institutes, consultants, nature conservation organisations, provinces, and volunteers. All are involved in the practical appliance and developing of knowledge on the hydromorphological aspects of (restoration) of small rivers and streams.

Organisation

Although most activities are initiated by a question based formula, a small Core Team (consisting of representatives from above mentioned organisations) is needed for support. This team helps to coordinate and guide to organise field trips, discussions, coaching of research activities etc. and to communicate with other groups or institutes with similar activities.

No money is involved to make the activities possible. Participants organise activities on a voluntary base, taking turns. Each activity is reported and relevant information and findings can be found on the [website of DLG](#)

Activities

Several activities have taken place since the start in 2007; and attendance varied from 20- 40 persons.



Fieldtrips

Thirteen field trips have been organised, from the river Ruiten Aa in the North East to the river Mark in the South of the Netherlands. During most of those field trips a special project and item is illustrated and evaluated. Plenary discussions have been held, sometimes conclusions are drawn; and, last but not least, (new) bi-lateral contacts are made.

Thematic activities

In addition to the field trips, the CoP initiated thematic sessions. Examples are: monitoring, modelling of special aspects, maintenance and costs, relation with ecological WFD - targets, forecasting of meandering, nature etc.

Instruments for improving small streams and rivers, ready to be applied in practice are developed by scientific institutes as WUR/ Alterra especially on request of this CoP. Examples are: a map for predicting the width of meanders, a relation graph for forecasting chance of meandering, and a guide for geomorphological restoration of streams (in preparation) and morphological processes in lowland streams.

Related platforms

Some years ago the Dutch Platform Stream and River Restoration (PBRH) was founded. Aim of this platform is to link smaller communities involved in special aspects of restoration of rivers and streams with each other and offer them a platform. There are many relations and similarities in targets and categories of target groups between the ECRR and the Dutch CoP- Reme-

andering Streams. However the ECRR is aiming at more aspects. Many individuals who are interested in these themes are members of or otherwise active in the [ECRR](#) and/or the [NCR](#).



Future

Although the future of the CoP cannot be predicted, as long as its members are interested in and stay actively involved, and continue to organise activities and to come up with new issues, the CoP for Remeandering Streams will survive.

For more information;
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 and H.R.Kuypers@dlg.nl
[DLG](#)

International Riversymposium

The 17th International Riversymposium has the overarching theme of 'Large River Basins'. There is hardly a better location to hold this conference than in Canberra in the Murray-Darling Basin, where much of Australia's Aus\$13 billion water reform implementation and large basin planning has occurred since 2007.

This year's Riversymposium will have something for all river professionals. We are lowering the standard registration level substantially to ensure no financial barriers to this exciting event. Above all, the Riversymposium will be an occasion to celebrate – with awards of Riverprizes at the fabulous Gala dinner, a river art festival, and strong social and partner programs. The International

Riversymposium is the meeting place for all river professionals.

Programme

The conference program has four main themes where different aspects of river basin management at all scales will be examined, discussed and debated. These themes are:

- Large River Basin Management
- Science and Knowledge for River Policy and Management
- Rivers for Industries, and
- Rivers and Communities.

All four themes strongly reinforce the Riversymposium's key focus on excellence, collaboration and integration. An added feature

will be incorporating art, culture and education into the program and engaging with schools, local organisations and community groups. This will enrich the experience of delegates and allow greater interaction with the local community.

Sponsorship & Exhibition

Sponsoring the International Riversymposium presents an opportunity for all stakeholders with an interest in rivers to highlight their commitment and support to this unique sector. River and waterway restoration, health and management depend on the combined engagement of institutions, community, science and business – all of which are represented at Riversymposium.

Sponsorship offers your organisation:

- Marketing opportunities and international exposure during the life of the event;
- Access to hundreds of influential and engaged delegates;

- Connections with leading industry professionals;
- The chance to unlock and share knowledge;
- The opportunity to support attendance of leading professionals from developing countries;
- Involvement in elements of programme design and content.

There is also an opportunity to present your organisation, service, product or initiative in the RiverExpo – a new and revitalised approach to the traditional trade exhibition.

RiverExpo is an excellent opportunity to meet and network with an enthusiastic and captive international audience. We encourage all organisations with an interest in river and the environment to consider participating in the RiverExpo.

More information about the programme and registration can be found on: [river symposium](#), [registration](#).



Connecting River Restoration Thinking to Innovative River Management
6th Edition | 27–29 October 2014 | Vienna
Integrated with the final event of the SEE River project



European River Restoration Conference 2014 – SEE River Project Final Event Connecting River Restoration Thinking to Innovative River Management

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 (TBC). The 2nd European Riverprize will be awarded in Vienna's City Hall on 28 October. For more information see the [IRF website](#)



Website

The 2014 conference website is now online at [errc2014](#). This provides all the information on the conference themes, the tentative program including optional field excursions, and more.

Conference themes

The 2014 European River Restoration Conference will combine the presentation of river restoration practices and the institutional capacity building aspects of contemporary river corridor management addressed by the SEE River project. There will be particular emphasis on the practical aspects of river restoration practices, effectiveness, capacity, finance, policy and research.

Themes

The conference has the following main themes, with emphasis on the practical aspects of river restoration practices, capacity, finance, policy, and research:

- Urban river restoration and city development
- Land use / agriculture and river restoration
- Hydropower; mitigation and compensation of impacts through river restoration
- Restoring hydro-morphological processes and sediment continuity
- Fish migration and river restoration
- Cost effective solutions for river management; undertaking river

restoration that delivers ecosystem services benefits. While the emphasis is on the practical aspects based on real-life cases, the conference will examine the overall approach to integrated river basin management with these cross-cutting issues:

- Capacity building for involved actors for integrated river corridor management
- Building stakeholder dialogue for informed decision-making on river management
- Establishing the links and cooperation between local, regional, national and international level stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable transboundary integrated management of river corridors
- Developing and ensuring the bottom up and top down approaches and their combinations

The conference will also present the practical experiences, challenges and solutions for contemporary river management from 6 rivers, addressed in the SEE River project.



presentation, oral, film or video. They may include workshops, panel discussions, etc., as desired.

The submissions should clearly fit within the conference themes and moreover should pay attention to the following future river restoration principles:

- Technocratic restoration giving way to democratic solutions; benefit multiple actors with communities as the prime drivers and benefactors
- Working at a catchment to basin landscape scale, to integrate and tackle multiple drivers
- Setting realistic targets with a timeframe reflecting the pace of change in the environment
- Collaboration with and at the pace of stakeholder interests and capacities to yield sustainable results
- Monitoring river restoration and in quantities assessing its effects and benefits session.

Download the submission instructions [here](#)

The conference is organised by ECRR and the SEE River project

SEE River project is led by the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia and involving 25 more partners from 12 countries, the project aims at developing innovative approaches to contemporary river corridor management by engaging stakeholders along 6 international rivers in the South East Europe. It is co-funded by the EU in the framework of the Territorial Cooperation Programme South East Europe.

What do we have to offer?

Watch recordings of all presentations and all materials of last years' conference online at [link](#), or for a quick recap, watch our chairman's presentation of the summary on ([link](#))

Call for submissions; deadline 1st June 2014

Participants are invited to submit summaries that link to the delivery and implementation of river restoration. These summaries should contribute to the discussion on the innovation of integrated river (basin) management. The breakout sessions are two and half hours in duration and can be of any type of



Twinning – Sustainable river management through education and international peer to peer learning

There is no more fundamental necessity to life than water. It sustains people and nature alike and provides a commonality that can bridge cultural and geographic divides. How to sustainably manage our water resources is a global problem that is becoming especially pronounced in the developing world. Innovation in education provides one of the keys to unlocking solutions to water issues across the world. One such education initiative is that of the International RiverFoundation's (IRF) "Twinning" program.

The IRF Twinning initiative aims to facilitate collaborative partnerships to restore river health globally. Twinning links members from the IRF alumni network with river organisations in developing na-

tions across the world. The goal of Twinning is to create sustainable river management through "peer to peer" education models and engagement on a local level.

In 2013 the IRF has awarded the International Commission for protection of the River Rhine (ICPR) for his achievements with the inaugural European Riverprize at the [European River Restoration Conference](#) in Vienna. The ICPR has received the opportunity to embark on their own Twinning journey to share knowledge and join the global community of river Twinning. In 2010 the River Thames won the Thies International Riverprize and have been twinning ever since. Their story is inspiring and demonstrates what

can be achieved through Twinning.

Twinning in Action: The River Thames, UK, and the Ganges River, India

In 2010 the River Thames won the Thies International Riverprize for significant achievements and excellence in river restoration over a period spanning 60 years. The River Thames flows through London and 60 years ago it was declared biologically dead. Due to the work of the Environment Agency and its predecessors and partners, the cleaner waters and improved habitats along its banks and tributaries have encouraged the return of a whole range of wildlife, including otters and 125 species of fish in the tidal river.

Similar to the River Thames, the Yamuna River is a main tributary of the Ganges River and flows through New Delhi, the capital of India. The Yamuna has similar problems to those which reduced the Thames to the status of being biologically dead in the 1950s.

Following this win the River Thames through the Thames Rivers Trust (TRT) is now engaged in a Twinning partnership with the River Ganges, India. In partnership with WWF India and the PEACE Institute India, the TRT aims to provide education by engagement; providing the tools for effective river management.

Partnership objectives

Currently, there is a strong focus on improving the health of the Yamuna River. Originating in the Lower Himalayas, the 1,440km long Yamuna River is a tributary of the Ganges River. Creating shared values between Twinning partners allows for effective knowledge transmission. Thereby improving the health of the Yamuna River and associated communities. This is a key objective of the UK-India Twinning program.

The UK-India partnership has a tailored reporting and monitoring program, with highly achievable targets that maintains transparency and gives a guide to measure progress against.

Making a difference on the ground

The Thames and Ganges Twinning program has achieved significant results, including:

- Building the capacity of 10 “Friends of the River” organisations to cover 1,440km of the Yamuna River and take action for clean water, rubbish removal, education, peer training,
- Implementation of the first ever “Green Yatra” campaign to prevent tones of rubbish going into the top of the river during pilgrimage season,
- Construction of groundwater wells to augment and support clean water supply,
- Voluntary “Village Health Index” monitoring by doctors and hospitals,
- Implementation of green energy projects, particularly solar energy,
- “Eco-clubs” set up in 11 schools along the Yamuna
- 3,500 volunteers recruited, 12 capacity building workshops, 15 river and village clean up events, 32 events involving school children, 6000 trees planted to assist with land management and water quality
- The first action plan written for the Yamuna tributary ever
- Peer learning exchange visits between India and the UK

The total impact of these activities is felt directly by at least 5,000 people in India and many tens of thousands indirectly benefit.

The Future

The key to success through the Twinning education model is the peer to peer learning, which avoids the traditional donor-recipient model, but rather, allows all parties to learn from each other and solutions to be implemented in an organic and culturally sensitive way. Twinning builds on the fundamental relationships that arise when professionals and communities are linked together with common understanding and goals.

Further information regarding IRF Twinning programs or to join our twinning program more information can be [found here](#).



Events calendar For events in other continents please consult the website

| Date/periode | Titel/issue | Location | Links |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| June 3-5 2014 | REFORM All partners meeting | Baeza, Spain | |
| 7-8 May 2014 | Annual RRC conference | Sheffield, UK | http://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc_conferences.php |
| 24 May 2014 | World Fish Migration day | | http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/home |
| 27 May 2014 | 2nd International Conference on the Design, Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring and Control of Urban Water Systems | Algarve, Portugal | http://www.wessex.ac.uk/14-conferences/urban-water-2014.html |
| 3-8 Augustus 2014 | Annual conference river restoration centre | Oulu, Finland | ser2014@metla.fi |
| 1- 5 September 2014 | Fifteenth World Lake Conference | Perugia, Italy | WLC15 Conference Website |
| 21-26 September 2014 | IWA World Water Congress | Lisbon, Portugal | http://www.emwis.org/thematicdirs/events/2014/09/2014-iwa-world-water-congress-exhibition |
| 22-24 September 2014 | Conference Stream restoration | Lycksele in Lapland, Sweden | johanna.gardestrom@emg.umu.se |
| 22 September 2014 | Nature-friendly management of rivers and valleys | Warsaw, Poland | http://bliskienaturze.sggw.pl/ |
| 22-23 September 2014 | 50th ISOCARP Congress: 'Urban Transformations - Cities and Water' | Gdynia, Poland | http://www.isocarp.org/index.php?id=activities |
| 24 September 2014 | Rotterdam International Conference 2014, Deltas in Times of Climate Change: Connecting world science | Rotterdam, the Netherlands | http://www.climatedeltaconference2014.org/ |
| 2-3 October 2014 | NCR-days | Enschede, Netherlands | http://www.ncr-web.org |
| 27-29 October 2014 | 6th European River Restoration Conference | Vienna, Austria | www.errc2014.eu |
| 12-15, November 2014 | Euro-INBO 2014 | Bucarest, Romania | http://www.inbo-news.org/inbo/papers-and-photos-of-past-events/article/europe-inbo-2014 |
| 11 December 2014 | Sediment dynamics: from the summit to the sea | New Orleans, USA | http://www.nnr.lsu.edu/icce2014/ |
| 3-8 Augustus 2015 | 6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration | Manchester, United Kingdom | http://www.ser2015.org/ |

Call for articles

The newsletter of the ECRR should also be a way to share with one another what interesting work is being done, information about seminars or literature.

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@eccr.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

Free Membership ECRR

All who are interested in river restoration and sustainable water management are encouraged to join.

Members receive the ECRR newsletter approximately four times per year, and are the first to be informed about activities by the ECRR, its members and partner organisations.

To register, go to www.eccr.org, and click contact.



Government Service for Land and Water Management
Ministry of Economic Affairs

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