



Outcomes from the workshop on River Restoration and NWRM EUROPE-INBO 2014

12 November 2014, Bucharest, Romania



Context and objectives

- Pursuing the goal to play a more active role for EUROPE-INBO, CEENBO, MENBO in the 2013-2015 CIS, through Better coordination between CIS works and Networks activities
- **Organise works and exchanges on current subject of interests with the high diversity of Europe-INBO members, in this case on NWRM and river restoration**
- Preparatory works with NIHWM, ECRR, ONEMA and Network representatives
- **Balance between presentations and works in groups**

Online Questionnaire

- Acknowledgment of the multiple benefits and strengths of NWRM and RR projects:

Cross cutting approach, coherent with several Directives

Local/Regional adaptability

- Interrogations on:

How to choose the NWRM or RR project adapted to a specific issue ?

What are the means, potential sources of funding and the political will ?

How to evaluate the quantified effects and cost-effectiveness?

- Identification of the main obstacles or/and levers for their implementation:

Still a relative lack of technical guidelines and capabilities, awareness, funding, regulations, integration, related governance

Difficulties to mobilize all the stakeholders and actors



* Already some recommendations

- Multiple benefits seeking
- Ensuring Sustainability of knowledge
- Condense knowledge in a accessible information base
- Successes is determined by people... Societal choices
- Innovation in linkages between Integrated River Basin Management and river restoration

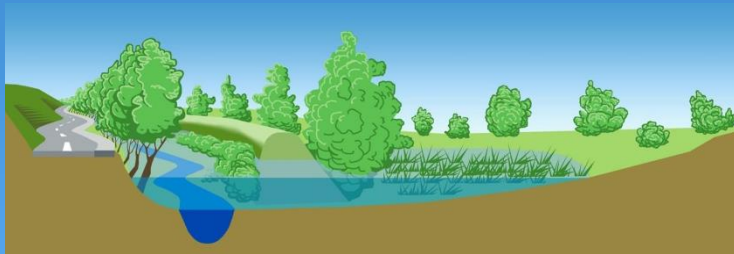
Consensus on:

- Cross-cutting issue and multiple benefits of Restoration and NWRM
- Needs to be included in the RBMPS and FRMPs
- But needs remain for actual delivering of measures

Theme 1: How to integrate European directives and policies through river restoration measures and NWMRs

Presentations:

- Restoration of Russenski Lom River near Ivanovo Rock Monasteries
Cristian TETELEA, WWF
- Experience feedback Project Orbigo,
Rosa HUERTAS, Conf. Hidrográfica del Duero



2 working groups

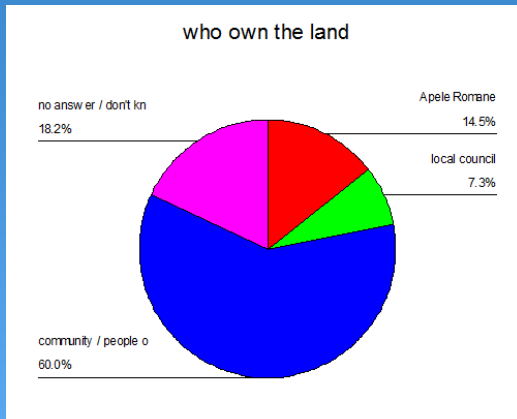
Main outcomes and recommendations

- River restoration and Natural Water Retention Measures are highly cross-cutting. Therefore they are a good mean to integrate policy objectives (WFD, Habitat and Bird directives, flood directive, etc.) and institutions (administration in charge of water, urban development, rural development, agriculture, etc.)
- Need for **“committees”/“councils”** with representatives from the different sectors and levels to ensure coordination, including transboundary committees when relevant (with political, technical and financial support).
- Need to efficiently describe, understand and take into account **local stakeholders interests to create ownership**
- **Articulating the different scales:** national level for decision process, local/regional for implementation, local level for local stakeholders involvement. Keeping in mind basin approach and in particular: downstream/upstream solidarity
- **Communication:** promoting successful project in order to demonstrate concrete benefits (demonstrative value: “seeing is believing”); promotion of soft measures (e.g. buffer zones, wetland restoration) as opposed to hardworks (dikes, dams). Raising awareness through a wide range of media (movies, internet, etc.)

* Theme 2: Better engagement with local communities in ecosystem restoration projects

Presentations:

- Outcomes and main recommendations from CERCEAU project, Christophe BOUNI, ASCA
- Ciobarciu Wetland Project, Dan BADARAU, Apele Romane



2 working groups

Main outcomes and recommendations

- Depending on the context, implement a **real adaptive participation** in order to reach acceptability
- Time is important and needed (convincing, planning, demonstrate long term benefits)
- Establishment of a local coordinating body (required by regulation)
- Clear roles and responsibilities between implementers and the local community – A ‘river contract’ e.g. France [SAGE] (examples also Morocco, Italy)
- Use established and respected locally based NGO to manage project,
- Use local knowledge to inform the planning and stress on ‘affectivity’ of the water basin (historical heritage, school programmes)
- Use multiple terminologies (economic, social, cultural, ecological...) and avoid too much technical language
- Local community ‘ambassadors’ from successful projects used to explain their initial concerns and the benefits they have seen.
- Local environmental fund (work with local businesses/industry to financially support local projects).

Follow-up

- * Presentations and full groups findings to be put on INBO website
- * Written product 4-6 pages
- * Usefulness of those recommendations for effective implementation in our basins...
- * Presenters to reflect on the findings ?

Thank you for your participation!

