“River management in a climate change context: challenges and opportunities”

18th October 2023
Hotel Meliá Oceanic
Workshop Agenda

Introduction (45’):
- General introduction - INBO
- OFB
- Impacts of Climate Change on Rivers (Biodiversity, Ecosystems Services, Resources…) – Mr. Bart Fokkens
- River management and climate change in Spain → Impacts, consequences, examples of actions - Ms. Tania Silva & Mr Emilio Real Llanderal

Working session # 1 – River management and climate change nowadays
- Restoration of the stream in the intermittent Cerknica Polje (Slovenia) – Ms. Irena Likar
- Multiple benefits of reopening rivers in Oslo – Mr Anders Iversen
- Participatory discussion time – 30’
- Break: 15:40 → 15:55

Working session # 2 – Adapting river management to climate change
- Monitoring and evaluating actions in rivers in a climate change context – Ms. Marlène ROLAN-MEYNARD & Mr. Stéphan JOURDAN
- Management of temporary rivers - Ms. Alejandra Tierno Cinque
- Participatory discussion time – 30’
- Conclusion: end → 5 PM
Main objectives of this workshop

- Promote works and exchanges on current subject of interests at European level

- Presentations in different climatic contexts + time for discussion and debate

- Preparatory works with ECRR, OFB and Network representatives
Rivers, at the heart of several regulations and uses

- Regulation and policies
  - Biodiv protection
  - Repower EU
  - Restoration standards
  - WFD
  - Floods directive
  - CAP

- Uses and sectors
  - Agriculture
  - Energy
  - Recreation
  - Transport

River management
The four-dimensional nature of river ecosystem

4 dimensions to be taken into account
# NBS & NWRM

## Nature Based Solutions (NBS)
- Approaches that promote the protection, sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems
- Benefit both biodiversity and human well-being
- IUCN have developed a standard for the verification and design of NBS

## Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)
- Multi-functional measures
- Enhance and preserve the water retention capacity of aquifers, soils, and ecosystems
- Using natural means and processes

![Diagram showing the relationship between NBS and NWRM with restored wetland and permeable pavement](image-url)
River Restoration: a European goal at the crossroads of several legislations

**WFD**

Ensuring restoration of watercourses is a necessary condition for achieving good ecological Status

**Biodiversity for strategy 2030**

Establishes several targets for aquatic ecosystems, and set the target to make at least 25 000 km of rivers free-flowing again by 2030

The current context of multiple crises was a central point of the event:

- Climate change
- Energy
- Loss of biodiversity
- Pollution
RIVER RESTORATION: a European goal at the crossroads of several legislations

Aquatic ecosystems are under pressures

- Europe’s rivers, lakes and alluvial habitats are under immense pressure.
- Ensuring the restoration of watercourses is a necessary condition for achieving good ecological status under the European Water Framework Directive.

Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- Establishes several targets for aquatic ecosystems, and set the target to make at least 25,000 km of rivers free-flowing again by 2030.
- It also proposes establishing legally binding rules to reach these targets.

A lot of countries are already implementing measures to restore river continuity like adding a fish passage or removing barriers.

The current context of multiple crises was a central point of the event: energy, biodiversity, pollution, and climate change.

A new dimension for River restoration

Governance

- Co-construction with all users, which especially means incorporating human and social sciences analysis.
- Information and awareness are crucial for citizens.
- Information and training are still needed for decision makers.

Technical aspects

- Some metrics still need to be developed.
- The need of database of barriers, of habitats.
- All the compartments of the ecosystem have to be taken into account.
- ECRR also introduced the difference between 2 concepts when removing obstacles: prioritisation VS optimisation.

Regulation and funding

- To strengthen the link from EU to regional and local level.
- Simplify the administrative burden.
- Land planning and land use are important to consider.
- For the financing, many tools already exist. A lot of cross financing is leading sometimes to a loss of efficiency between projects.

Europe-INBO workshop

Europe-INBO 2022
September 26th 2022 - September 29th 2022 - Annecy, France
This webinar was organized jointly by INBO and the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR). It celebrated the launch of the publication of a study on the development and present status of 8 National River Continuity Policies from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Spain. The following aspects of the results of the study have been presented and discussed:

- Completeness
- Administrative structure
- Prioritization method
- Stakeholders involvement
- Financing
- Monitoring & evaluation of the policies

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 needs complete policies with effective implementation to protect nature and restore eco-systems.
River management and climate change

- Climate change causing or enhancing new pressures on rivers and causing difficulties for water resources management
  - How to manage rivers in a climate change context?
  - How can rivers in good health help to adapt to climate change?
  - What regulatory and other technical tools are available, what is missing?
Workshop Agenda

“River management in a climate change context: challenges and opportunities”

• A variety of presentations in different European countries

• 2 working sessions with participatory time
  → split group

• Minutes of the presentations and work will be produced and shared
Thank you for your attention and enjoy exchanging ...
EUrOPE-INbO 2035