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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.ecrr.org, and click contact.

Dear all,

Herewith you receive already the fourth ECRR newsletter of this year.

Since the former edition, lots of activities and interesting events have taken place. Some of which will be reported on briefly in this edition.

As you receive this newsletter, an important activity for ECRR is taking place, namely the seminar "Forging targets and Solutions for Rivers and Water Ecosystem restoration". This event takes place on November 15-18th at Ljubljana, Slovenia. For more information I refer to the ECRR website or the website of The National Institute for Water of the republic of Slovenia (NIW): www.izvrs.si/ftsriver/.

The results of the seminar will provide us with relevant input for the next WWF6 which will take place in April, 2012, at Marseille. We are planning to prepare a special Newsletter edition on the results of this seminar later this year.

In this newsletter you will find again some interesting articles about some aspects also interesting for river restoration projects:

- **Moment**, introduced by Stan Weijns, describes an on going project in the South Baltic Sea Area about modern water management with special attention to participation of "water users partnerships".
- **Géni'Alp**, a project to promote the use of soil bioengineering for riverbank protection in the French and Swiss mountain rivers, by Andre Evette c.s.

Furthermore, a short report about the **INBO conference**, that was held in Oporto on September 28-30th, 2011 is included. At last a short report of the annual **NCR-days** is put in.

As usual a list of events coming up is also incorporated.

I wish you pleasant and fruitful readings.

Hil R. Kuypers
Secretary ECRR



Modern Water Management in the South Baltic Sea Area



www.MOMENTproject.eu

MOMENT & MOMENT UPGRADE

- **Duration:**
September 2009 - December 2012
- **25 Partners**
- **Budget: +2,5 mil euro**
- **Geographical extension:**
South Baltic Sea Area
- **Main objectives:**
 - to develop Water Users Partnerships
 - to invest +1,4milj euro in concrete measures

There is no doubt that eutrophication and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea pose a real threat to sustainable development in the whole Baltic region and that these problems influence the touristic attractiveness, biological value and countless other aspects of our lives. Despite many initiatives, for example HELCOMs Baltic Sea Action Plan, promising water quality improvement has not been reported yet. The MOMENT and MOMENT UPGRADE projects aim therefore at contributing to the bottom up development of necessary management techniques of river basins. Key issues are the building of so called Water Users Partnerships, exchange of experiences on both international and local level, information campaigns and education of the public to develop and implement locally anchored management plans. Besides that, actual measures will be realised through co-funding.



The MOMENT project has been developed through the Euroregion Baltic (ERB) cooperation and involves seven projects in four countries: Kaliningrad (Russia), Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. They will act as pilot areas for developing water management through Water Users Partnerships or WUPs. These organisations with local and regional representatives, private stakeholders and landowners will be involved in testing concrete pilot measures aiming at reducing the outflow of nutrients and hazardous substances.

Strong local involvement...

All pilot areas have established a WUP so far, consisting of the local and regional stakeholders in the catchment area. The idea to involve them in "their" water leads to a more participative way of solving local problems with effective measures, tackling pollution concerns on a larger scale. Representatives from each WUP will throughout the project, ensuring mutually instructive cross-border cooperation.

In order to improve the bad ecological status of the stream Grisbäcken in Sweden*, local knowledge and participation



is used to create several wetlands, meandering, spawning grounds for trout, water retention in forest, irrigation dams and nutrient filters. All small scale but spread out in the whole catchment area.

... and investments

Projects on a local level need a high degree of tangibility. That is why investments in for example common solutions for individual wastewater treatment, stormwater treatment, individual forest owner consultancy and an online GIS platform are foreseen.

Problems and challenges

Even though the project has come half way, it becomes clear that participation and voluntary cooperation are not driven by external or strict deadlines. Initially it can be hard to start up participatory processes with large number of stakeholders and the subsequent discussion about visions and management strategies takes time, not to speak of the planning and implementation of measures. With the objective of a good ecological status by 2015 in most of our water bodies, as described in the EU WFD, time is clearly not on our side. Although, it is expected that the actual implementation will be facilitated on the long term as more key persons have been involved in early stage discussions.

Through early participation, problems can be solved locally, increasing understanding and cooperation for the regional and even international common objective of water quality improvement in the Baltic Sea.

More information: Stan.Weyns@torsas.se

Investing in your future



EUROPEAN
UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

* We will report more about the concrete work in the pilot project area in Torsås (Sweden) in the next ECRR newsletter.

The 9th “EUROPE-INBO 2011” conference in Oporto

The 9th “EUROPE-INBO 2011” conference in Oporto gathered 213 participants, representatives of national administrations and basin organizations as well as NGOs and companies from 42 countries. The conference was organised around five successive round tables addressing the following issues:

- Water and Energy: the dilemmas, costs and benefits.
- Application of the WFD in countries non-members of the European Union.
- Water Governance in Transboundary River Basin scenarios: Strategic co-operation and twinning among Water Authorities.
- Adapt to long term challenges linked to climate change and prevent extreme phenomena.
- Develop new knowledge and know-how on river hydro-morphology, restoration and protection of water ecosystems.

In addition, the preparation of the 6th World Water Forum 2012 in Marseilles - France has been the subject of a detailed presentation and constructive proposals.

The ECRR is the WWF6 lead coordinator of the Specific Target and Solution Group in the European region for the fifth theme:

Developing new knowledge and new know-how in the field of river hydro-morphology, restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems is a key issue for the future.

Therefore a delegation of this Target and Solution Group headed by the ECRR Chairman participated in and contributed to the EUROPE-INBO 2011. The Oporto Declaration summarizes about this theme the following valuable conclusions to be used in the ongoing preparatory procures of the World water Forum 6.

The new EU directives, including the Water Framework Directive, have changed the game for the rehabilitation and protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Most projects were previously carried out on a small scale, on local water bodies, and did not generate complex problems and thus were covered by simple legislation. Now, the new policy of the European Union introduced a more holistic, integrated and large scale process.

The motivations that guided these directives include flood management and the use of flood plains as a means of storage, improving water quality and morphological status, and the development of improved agri-environmental programs. Of course, the larger the scale of a project is, the more it will be complex in terms of technology, of environmental, social, economic and financial impact.

One of the most obvious barriers in these types of projects is land ownership or the right to intervene in the field, or to change its use.

To allow such projects to succeed, the mechanisms of regional planning on a large-scale or initiatives of land bank type should be developed, as it is the case in the Netherlands or Denmark: holistic solutions that include multiple benefits such as flood control, and protection of nature.

But these projects are often limited by lack of knowledge, practical examples and of information or awareness raising of the planners and managers. There is a strong need for knowledge and know-how in river hydro-morphology, restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems, to allow developing

such projects. Much can be learned from countries that have experience in this field.

It is therefore vital to develop and share information on best practices in river hydro-morphology and restoration of rivers and wetland ecosystems.

These would include actions covering the following topics:

Promotion of integrated regional planning and restoration and protection of rivers and aquatic ecosystems, especially by using instruments of the land bank type in conjunction with restoration projects,

A consensus on best practices for the restoration and protection of rivers and aquatic ecosystems to achieve the European objectives; the solution is based on the availability of knowledge and experience-based information for decision-makers and managers in an appropriate form so that they increase their understanding of the benefits of best practices,

Improvement of relationships between touristic development and quality of aquatic ecosystems.

*Bart Fokkens,
Chairman of ECRR*



NCR Days 2011

Netherlands Centre for River Research

The yearly symposium of the Netherlands Centre for River Research (NCR) took place on October the 27th and 28th and was organised by Delft University. During the 2-day symposium the national Dutch river manager, two mayor Dutch research institutes and five universities presented their latest research on river hydro-morphology and ecology. The aim is to provide an informal setting that fosters discussions among both experienced and less experienced researches, managers and other interested persons.

Mostly a theme for the symposium is chosen, one that reflects the field of interest of the organising party. This year's theme was "Controlling the Dutch rivers". The Dutch rivers fulfil many different functions simultaneously. To manage the national flows and water levels, adjustable infrastructure, such as weirs, sluices and pumping exist. Possibilities and strategies for making better use of this existing infrastructure were explored during discussions at the NCR days.

A book of abstracts can be downloaded: <http://ncr-web.deltares.nl/>

The NCR is a network organisation aimed at connecting researchers, managers and practitioners on the field of river hydro-morphology and ecology. The means to do this is the yearly two-day symposium "NCR-days", and additionally several 1-day thematic workshops that address specific topics. By this, the NCR aims to integrate research and practise and generate possibilities for common research among its partners. The partners are: Rijkswaterstaat (Waterdienst), Deltares, Alterra, Unesco-IHE, Universities of Delft, Nijmegen, Twente and Utrecht. More information, including the book of abstracts can be found on: <http://www.ncr-web.deltares.nl/>

Want to come in contact with the research network? Don't hesitate to contact us.

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Géni'Alp (Soil bioengineering in mountainous rivers)

In the Alps, erosion along river banks is a real problem for local politicians who have to ensure security of goods, and people safety. Many techniques for riverbank protection can be used by river managers (civil or bioengineering techniques). In the French and Swiss Alps, we observe that "hard" techniques are widely favoured over "soft" techniques. This results from a lack of experience associated with a lack of French literature on these techniques. Nevertheless, other European countries such as Italy and Austria, have developed a large feedback experience on bioengineering techniques to protect alpine riverbank against erosion, in contexts with steep slopes and high bedload transport.

Based on these observations, eleven French and Swiss partners set up the Géni'Alp's project (Génie végétal en rivière de montagne - Interreg IVA France-Suisse Program) to promote the use of soil bioengineering for riverbank protection in the French and Swiss mountain rivers.

The main activities of this collaborative project are :

- The implementation of six showcases works using biotechnical or bioengineering techniques. The treated rivers present similar constraints but different techniques are used (brush mattresses, brush layers, vegetated rip-rap...) on the context. The plants used are mainly collected locally, and concern many alpine species scarcely used in bioengineering so far, as some willows (*Salix appendiculata*, *Salix myrsinifolia* ...), but also natural heritage species as *Myricaria germanica*.
- A biodiversity study led on fifty six sites from France and Switzerland. Plant and

animal (beetles and aquatic macro-invertebrates) diversity is collected on different kinds of riverbanks : pure bioengineering techniques (fascines and cuttings), cribwalls, mixing of rip-rap and bioengineering, pure rip-raps and 'natural' riverbanks

- Training days on bioengineering techniques and on plant species used for erosion protection in mountainous rivers. These days aim to educate and train river managers.
- A French guide about the used of soil-bioengineering techniques for riverbank protection in mountainous rivers. The purpose of this book is to provide concrete tools for river managers and to educate local politicians in the use of these techniques.

Thanks to Géni'Alp's results, local politicians and river managers from France and Switzerland will be able to better choose among different techniques to manage mountain riverbanks.

This project will end in December 2012 with a final meeting presenting the project's results. The objective is to bring local politicians and all "water actors" (managers, technicians,...) together in order to promote the use of the bioengineering techniques in mountain river. More information and news of Géni'Alp are available on www.geni-alp.org.

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European Events 2011; relevant for ECRR

For events in other continents please consult the website

Date / periode	Titel/issue	Location	Links
15-18th of Nov	Preparatory Seminar WWF-6	Ljubljana	http://www.ECRR.org
29th nov 2011	RR Policy event	Paris	http://www.restorerivers.eu/NewsMaterials/Events/tabid/2633/ctl/Details/Mid/11081/ItemID/1567/Default.aspx
22-23rd of Feb 2012	CIWEM; Watermanagement in Europe	Lille	http://www.ciwem.org/events/ciwem-international-event-2012.aspx
12-17 of March 2012	WWF-6	Marseille	http://www.worldwaterforum6.org
19th of April-2012	RRC conference	Nottingham	http://therrc.co.uk/2012%20Conference/1st_email_announcement_RRC_ANC_13.pdf
26-28 of June 2012	IS-conference	Lyon	http://www.graie.org/ISRivers/a_index.htm
17-21st of Sept 2012	9th int. symp. on ecohydraulics	Vienna	http://www.ise2012.boku.ac.at

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@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.



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Secretariat: DLG Government Service for Land and Water Management, P.O.Box 20021, 3502 LA Utrecht, The Netherlands | www.ecrr.org. Executive secretary Mr. Hil R. Kuypers. If you do not wish to receive the ECRR newsletter in the future, please send an email to info@ecrr.org with the subject "unsubscribe". This will also terminate your ECRR membership.