



International Network of  
Rivers for a New Socio-  
economic Development

EUROPE-INBO, Megève, France, 22-24 Septembre 2010



# AQUAMADRE

- ◆ Every place is made of water – not only of land – and every place is made of people using water or lacking of it, within a wide and diversified tapestry of cultures, environments, practices and tangible or intangible goods.
- ◆ One of the highest symbols of all this is the **river** that expresses and represents the unfolding and renewal of Life. Originating from a source, the river flows from the mountains to the lowlands, quenches thirst, cleans, irrigates, providing energy and sustaining the production of vital goods and services.

# AQUAMADRE

- ◆ **Cities, cultures, and civilisations in every corner of the Earth flourished from water along rivers and channels made by human capacities.** Nevertheless, the inappropriate use of waters, wrong choices, pollution and urbanisation, have been modifying and sometimes upsetting the very nature of the river. Misuse of soils, deforestation, modifications of river' banks are among the causes, more and more recurrent, of catastrophes and tragic events.
- ◆ A renewed and widespread awareness on the need to **reconsider the river in its vital role** is taking place, implementing tools, in particular normative ones, to re-establish the quality of waters and to guarantee their most

# AQUAMADRE

- ◆ Within this framework further efforts should be made. They will definitely contribute to raise awareness on the river as an element of high value, in contrast to the general trend considering it as a marginal element of the land.
- ◆ A new and broader vision and approach are urgently required: not only the targets of quality and rational use of water are necessary, but the whole of the socio-economic aims and interests of a territory should be brought together and linked to all factors sustaining life, development, the balance between man and nature, aiming at the sustainable management of each one of our rivers.
- ◆ A daily, local, and shared commitment from the

# AQUAMADRE

## MISSION

- ◆ Promote and reinforce technical and political cooperation in the international, national and local framework with a view to **improve knowledge, respect and sustainability of the river as a resource in a responsible locally adapted way**, starting from concrete cases within a larger context made by diversified situations, practices and uses;
- ◆ Re-establish, by a renewed and shared effort of each actor, the **conditions that make the river a real driver for economic and social development within a territory.**

# AQUAMADRE

## OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Following and supporting the primary objectives of quality and sustainable management of water, AQUAMADRE promotes a new culture of the river as a concrete instrument of socio-economic development;
- ◆ By means of a network of large and small rivers worldwide, AQUAMADRE supports the knowledge, the exchange of experiences, the good practices, the dialogue and the promotion of field programmes and projects on shared and specific topics among the people of the rivers giving voice and listening to every actor living and working in the river context;
- ◆ In collaboration with national and international organisations (e.g. INBO, EMWIS), AQUAMADRE facilitates the exchange of information, data and knowledge with the aim of good management of the basin;
- ◆ Promoting linkages between science, technical aspects and local knowledge, AQUAMADRE supports and identifies new

# AQUAMADRE

## MAIN TOPICS

- 💧 River Economics
- 💧 Knowledge, values and development opportunities of the river
- 💧 Participatory river management tools
- 💧 Conservation and rehabilitation of river ecosystems
- 💧 Rivers and urban areas
- 💧 River, risks and protection of the soil
- 💧 River, environment and climate change
- 💧 Integration of different functions and uses of the river
- 💧 River, agriculture, irrigation
- 💧 River and fisheries
- 💧 River and energy
- 💧 River and industry
- 💧 River, navigation, ports and transports
- 💧 River tourism, sport and recreation