



New approaches of river restoration: matching the EU blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters

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INBO Istanbul





DLG = Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Management

Core business: Integrated Land and Water management

Process and Project management

Rural Development / Land Consolidation

Land Banking

National Ecological Network

GIS Competence Centre

International Cooperation Projects

www.dienstlandelijkgebied.nl



DLG and River Restoration

Project management river restoration

DLG expertise Land Use planning: an important instrument for river restoration..

“ Integrating land use policies and - tools to enhance River Restoration “

Dealing with many stakeholders...integrated approaches



Main stakeholders

- Land owners, land users (agriculture)
- Nature conservation sector
- Business, enterprises, hydropower
- Urban actors, project developers
- Fishery sector
- Transport, infra structures









DLG and River Restoration...



DLG hosting ECRR (2010-2013)



Main ECRR Activities

Promotion ECRR Network and functions

Website: www.ecrr.org

Newsletters (electronic)

Conferences (Vienna 2013 next..)

Regional Seminars

Workshops, training courses , study tours

Networking

Advising and contribute to (EU) policy and strategies on RR

Example: EU Blueprint...



ECRR focus on future water policy: The EU blueprint

- Development of comprehensive water policy, addressing environmental impacts of major water using sectors

- Since 2000, WFD: integrated approach to water management, based on river basin management, with over all goals: good status of all EU waters by 2015

- 2010-2012: EC assessment of River basin Management Plans of member states; outcome: fundamental weaknesses on the implementation of water legislation, and conflicting EU policies





Ambition of EU blueprint...

“EU blueprint to cope with these weaknesses, to ensure availability of good quality water for sustainable water use in line with WFD objectives (by 2020)”

How to achieve this ambition... ??



Addressing some main problems...

1. More frequent and severe droughts in large parts of Europe
2. Impact of different forms of land use threatening water quality and quantity (scarcity, flood risks)
3. Lack of common EU standards for waste water re-use for agricultural or industrial use
4. Current water pricing levels do not provide adequate incentives to increase water efficiency
5. Governance of water and sectoral policies is fragmented
6. Weak and insufficient dissemination and sharing of compatible data between member States



EU blueprint: proposed solutions

Improving implementation of current existing EU water policy

Integration of water and other policy's objectives (better understanding of costs and benefits, economic activities and resources management)

Improving tools for better management of water resources

Good governance (integrated basin management)

Knowledge sharing and research

The blueprint will set the agenda for EU water policy



What links ECRR and its partners to the Blueprint?

Restoring Rivers to reconnect ecosystems and the services they provide:

- Water quality
- Bio diversity
- Flood safety
- Green infrastructure
- Multi stake holder benefits





Submission to the EU blueprint: vision by ECRR, RESTORE, REFORM, WI a.o.

Key points:

River restoration: Helps to reduce impacts of land and water use, and provides a basis for sustainable water resource management

There exists already a lot of experiences and practical knowledge from implementation of river restoration

The blueprint needs to consider a multi-sectoral and integrated approach of problems and design of measures



Specific comments on the EU blueprint (1)

Bring green infrastructure and with this, river restoration into water resource management plans (integrating of different aspects)

Land use is an important issue but do not lay emphasis on agricultural use or ecological issues only:

- Navigation
- Flood defence
- Municipal property development
- Hydropowers are key sectors as well
- etc.





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Specific comments on the EU blueprint (2)

Enhance over all basin views on integrated river management,

this implies:

- start water management from the source of the river, included wetlands and groundwater, right out to the sea..(WFD approach)
- include urban, terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and coastal areas



Specific comments on the EU blueprint (3)

The blueprint's recognition of the need for quantification of benefits by ecosystem services is supported

This may promote and enhance payments for ecosystem services schemes

Make costs and benefits of ecosystem maintenance and restoration transparent in water pricing

Future changes to CAP should also support the delivery of WFD measures





Recommendations

- Incorporate River Restoration plans into spatial planning: combine flood protection, ecology, economic development, environmental and infra-structural plans and ambitions
- Communication: Sharing information, knowledge and field practices about land use planning, land development, land banking and stakeholder involvement enhances success of (future) river restoration
- Support knowledge sharing around member states to improve existing tools (f.e. river wiki RESTORE, REFORM)



ECRR conference Vienna 2013



Celebrating Successes and Addressing Challenges

5th edition | 11-13 September 2013 | Vienna

www.ERRC2013.eu





European River Restoration Conference Vienna 11-13 September 2013

RESTORE, ECRR, IRF and the ICPDR present the 5th European River Restoration Conference

Restoring Rivers in Europe: Celebrating Successes and Addressing Challenges

1st European River Prize

Awarding of the International River Foundation's
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European River Restoration conference Vienna

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Thank you for your attention!

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