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## ***4th ECRR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RIVER RESTORATION***



***First call***

***Venezia, Italy***

***16 - 21 June 2008***

## *Rationale*

River Restoration has become an issue at the top of the agenda for water authorities and river managers in Europe, especially due to the Water Framework Directive (Dir. 2000/60/CE - WFD) which aims at improving the status of fluvial ecosystems in a broad, integrated, ecological perspective and to the new Flood Directive. At the same time River Restoration is still an important tool to implement other directives, such as 91/43/EEC (Nitrates), 92/43/EEC (Habitat), etc.

River Restoration is a challenging topic and involves a wide range of themes concerning planning strategy, implementation and project appraisal for a number of different types of river systems including upland, lowland and urban rivers. Topic areas addressed include hydrology, geomorphology, ecology and economics as, to be successful, restoration of freshwater ecosystems must incorporate all of these subjects within a holistic framework.

In the last decade river restoration projects, aimed at enhancing degraded river habitats and improving the wider river landscape, have increased. Each of such projects extends our knowledge of the restoration process, whether it be from a planning, ecological, hydrological or engineering point of view. Moreover, several experiences claim that River Restoration can be the correct approach to face the increasingly challenging threat of flood hazards (and associated land-sliding phenomena).

When risk is considered, together with nature conservation, recreation, water quality, River Restoration proves to be not only desirable, but even economically rewarding, despite the efforts it may require in terms of changing land-use patterns and socio-economic setting.

Introducing the term and concept of River Restoration at the policy level would bring into the discussion the worldwide experience of River Restoration, with its ideas, knowledge from applied research, methodologies and techniques.

The European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR) wishes to collaborate with organizations and individuals operating in River Restoration related sectors and can profitably share experiences and create synergies, thus increasing the opportunities for River Restoration at a global scale.



## *Objectives*

- share knowledge and concepts, approaches, methods and strategies on River Restoration;
- disseminate experiences from especially European (but also extra-European) case studies and share the most promising applied research solutions to be adopted in integrated River Restoration projects/interventions;
- promote the new concepts of the European legislation in the field of water management;
- communicate to policy and decision makers that River Restoration is ready to offer many key benefits and can play a role in the implementation of important Directives, first of all the WFD, and in facing the flooding and landsliding risk issue
- foster networking associating subjects working in River Restoration within the frame of ECRR.



## *Potential thematic sessions*

- **Habitats, species and impacts of hydromorphological alterations.** Up to now there are not enough studies regarding the relation between species and habitats, especially the way in which species react to hydromorphological alterations of their habitats.
- **River restoration and EU Directives.** What concepts, methods, experiences of River Restoration can help implementing the WFD? How can River Restoration help implementing and harmonising WFD, Birds, Habitat, Nitrate Directives? Reference conditions, minimum instream flow, improvement of the HMWB status through River Restoration.
- **Best practices for River Restoration.** Case studies and catalogue of measures for longitudinal and lateral connectivity of the rivers and for hydrological alteration of the natural flow regime, win-win projects on flood control and nature conservation.
- **Evaluating River Restoration projects/plans and managing conflicting objectives:** cost-benefit and multicriteria approaches and experiences to understand whether it is economically rewarding and, more in general, whether it is worth doing;
- **Opportunities of River Restoration against flood risk:** does it work? Is it worth?

The final list of thematic sessions will be defined basing on the expressions of interest received after the reactions to this first call.

## ***Character of the event and organization***

The focus will be on real-world experiences of projects/plans, including their ex-ante and post evaluation. Applied research contributions able to shed light on key issues will also be welcome.

The event is addressed to water authorities and river managers, as well as to hydrologists, geomorphologists, ecologists and nature conservationists.

Full sessions of presentations and a poster session are foreseen.

Working groups and parallel sessions on key issues will be organised following the interest of participants.

Proceedings will be available after the conference.

## ***Draft programme***

*Ice breaking (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>)*

*Day 0 (Monday 16<sup>th</sup>):* Official opening (Authorities greetings), plenary session, key note speakers; Afternoon: field trip.

*Day 1 (Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>):* Thematic sessions (plenary); afternoon: workshop.

*Day 2 (Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>):* Thematic sessions (plenary); afternoon: workshop; evening: social/cultural event.

*Day 3 (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>):* Thematic sessions (plenary); afternoon: workshop; reporting and closing session.

*Post conference field trips (facultative):*

Tagliamento River (Italy)

Drava River (Austria)



## ***INSTRUCTIONS***

Please, communicate to the ECRR Secretariat as soon as possible your potential interest in participating and the theme(s) in which you would like to provide a contribution.

You can do this sending an mail to the address written below and indicating no more than three thematic sessions you are interested in.

## ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

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