

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE

**partnership for sharing knowledge &
promoting best practice on river restoration
in Europe**

The RESTORE project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Community



and works in partnership with



RESTORE – restoring Europe's rivers

- ➔ *RESTORE encourages the restoration of European rivers towards a more natural state. This delivers increased ecological quality, flood risk reduction, and social and economic benefits.*
- ➔ *Financially supported by the EU LIFE+.*
- ➔ *We covering 21 countries within four regional groupings. €1.8M between 2010 and 2013.*



Restoring Europe's Rivers

working in partnership





RESTORE Partners

RESTORE is implemented by 7 partners:

- ➔ *Environment Agency - England and Wales,*
- ➔ *UK River Restoration Centre (RRC),*
- ➔ *Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE),*
- ➔ *Italian River Restoration Centre (CIRF),*
- ➔ *Dutch Gov't Service for Land and Water Management*
- ➔ *Wetlands International*
- ➔ *NIHWM - Romania*

The project works closely with European Centre for River Restoration.



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RESTORE countries

Regional Leads

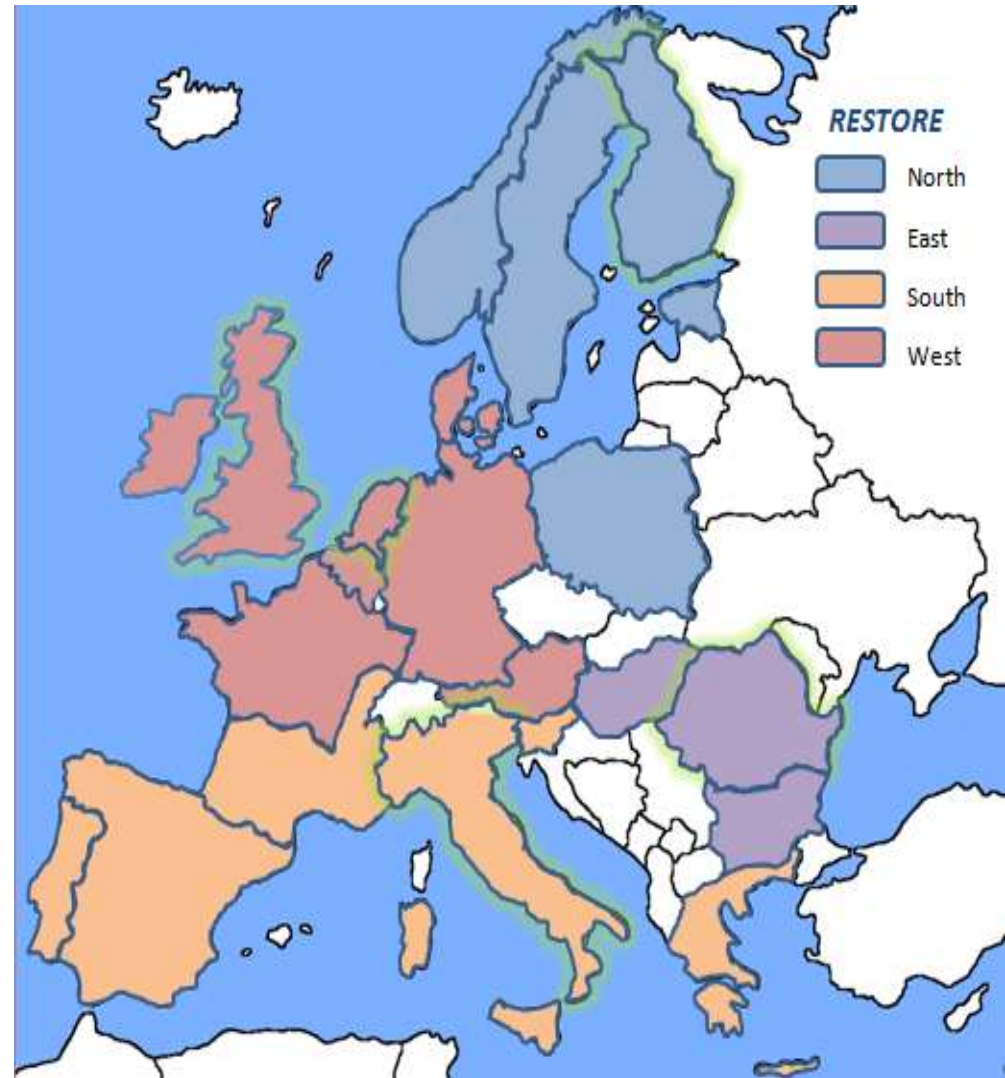
N – Finland (SYKE),

E – Netherlands/ Romania
(DLG),

S – Italy (CIRF),

W – UK (RRC).

Remaining countries via wider
media & communication.



RESTORE common themes

➔ Costs and benefits

➔ What do we mean by River Restoration?

➔ Drivers through Directives

➔ People and communities

Regional issues and concerns

East

- ➔ Access to funds/ information, few networks, promote understanding

South

- ➔ little progress outside France, issues of ephemeral rivers, water quality, bioengineering vs RR

West

- ➔ Concept understood, needs evidence, funding, guidance, political & planning buy-in, public safety.

North

- ➔ Fisheries and hydropower drivers, mixed levels of networks in operation.

RESTORE Project review of EU policy drivers

- Those which **drive** the delivery of river and catchment restoration, e.g. WFD, Habitats and Birds Directive, Floods Directive
- Those which **support** the delivery of river restoration, e.g. CAP, Nitrates Directive



1. Information

- ➔ Drivers
- ➔ Barriers
- ➔ Policies (EU, Basin, National, Regional)
- ➔ Existing networks
- ➔ Main audience
- ➔ Projects
- ➔ Best practice



2. Engagement

- Social Media
- Newsfeeds
- Website
- Press releases



- Workshops
- Seminars
- Field visits
- Meetings
- Conference

3. Knowledge Transfer

- **RESTORE** WIKI tool for projects
- Pooled resources & better information sharing
- Greater confidence in implementation
- Strengthened and new EU river restoration networks
- ECRR to take on the outputs post 2013.



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Obstacles to river restoration implementation

Policy

- inflexibility
- alignment of multiple policies

Financial

- limited funding
- funding arrangements

Societal

- Institutional and administrative boundaries
- (lack of) capacity building
- lack of understanding
- stakeholder involvement

Spatial planning

- agricultural land use and practices
- multiple and competing floodplain uses

Land use

- requirement to purchase land
- land use change / planning

Other

- promotion of hydropower schemes
- water quality
- time scale

Consensus on river restoration good practices to support European policy goals

Challenges

- Limited awareness of planners and practitioners
- Insufficient access to best practice
- Geographical variation in understanding and capacity



RESTORE knowledge management system - case studies

➔ Simple query

- ➔ Search known sites
- ➔ Single sites

➔ Advanced query

- ➔ Filter multiple sites
- ➔ Compare multiple sites

The screenshot displays the 'Restoring Europe's Rivers' website interface. On the left, a navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About', 'Contact', 'FAQ', 'Privacy', 'Terms', 'Sitemap', and 'Feedback'. The main content area features a map of Europe with several red pins indicating project locations. A pop-up window titled 'Run query: Case study query map' is visible, showing a map of the UK with a red pin and a text box containing the text: 'This case study is in United Kingdom and has the themes: habitats and biodiversity, social impacts'. Below the map, there is an 'Additional query' section with various search parameters: 'State', 'Theme' (with checkboxes for economic, flood risk management, habitats and biodiversity, hydropower, planning, land-use management, social impacts), 'Country' (with radio buttons for None, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium), 'Title', 'Catchment area category', 'Catchment area extent between', 'Reach length affected between', 'Discharged land cover', 'Date project started between', and 'Within distance'.





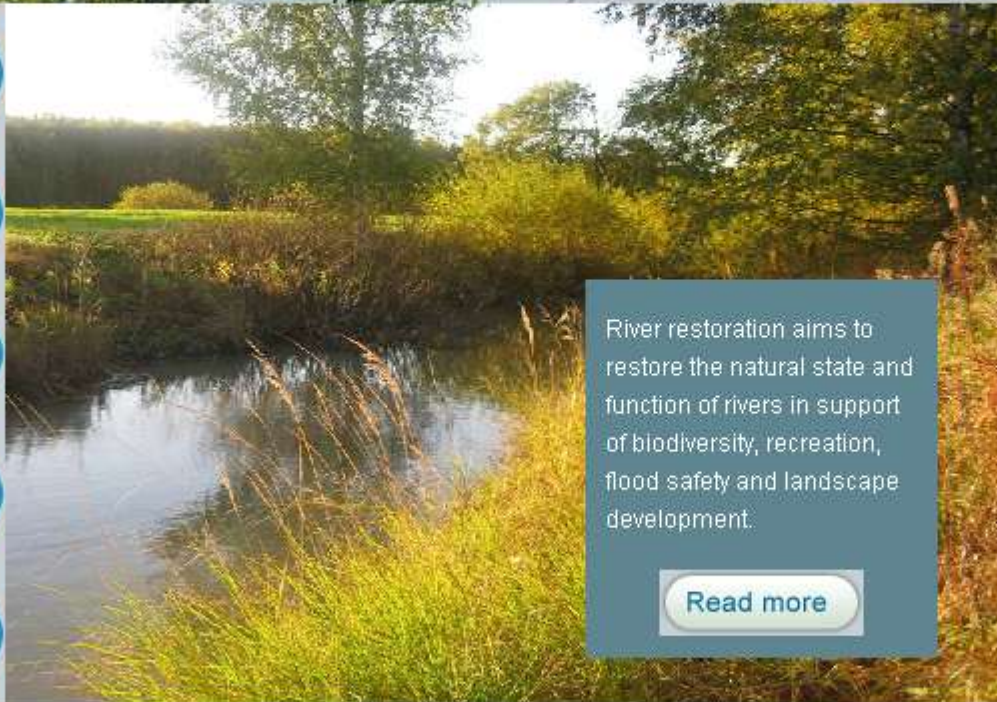
What is river restoration?

Economic benefits

Flood risk management

Habitats and biodiversity

Hydropower



River restoration aims to restore the natural state and function of rivers in support of biodiversity, recreation, flood safety and landscape development.

[Read more](#)

[Restoring urban brooks - a new guide on the on the restoration of brooks in urban areas](#)

28 February 2012

[New guidance for working with natural processes in flood and coastal erosion risk management](#)

21 February 2012

[RESTORE – the case study repository is coming...](#)

16 February 2012

[A bit of fun from down under - Play the Catchment Game](#)

06 February 2012

[Visit the News and Updates page.](#)

Welcome to the RESTORE partnership for river restoration in Europe

RESTORE is a partnership for sharing knowledge and promoting best practice on river restoration in Europe.

Way forward

Support policy makers and practitioners to make more informed decisions

- 1. Consensus on river restoration good practice
 - What is good river restoration practice and how is this needed by different countries?
- 2. Communication of information to key target audiences
 - Engage stakeholders, establish networks and build information resource
 - Handbook - shaped by practitioners, policy makers and planners.
- 3. Stimulate integrated catchment approaches



RESTORE Outputs

- ➔ 36 events in over 10 countries
- ➔ 1200 persons engaged through events
- ➔ 500 case studies on the WIKI database
- ➔ 90,000 persons through project outreach
- ➔ International River Restoration Conference



www.restorerivers.eu