EcoAdvance
Advancing freshwater restoration

PRELIMINARY LIST OF POTENTIAL SHOWCASING SUCCESS PROJECTS

Preliminary Directions Identified for Showcasing

Date: **8.12.2025**
Document No: **WP2-Dl-50**
Version: **V6.0**
Status: **Final**
Deliverable No: **D2-3**

Funded by the European Union

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Title	Preliminary list of potential Showcasing Success projects
Lead Author	Zuzana Boukalova
Contributors	Whole Team
Distribution	Public
Document No.	WP2-Dl-50

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version	Prep. by	Approv. by	Description & Status
15/10/23	V1.0	ZB		Initial collation in excel
24/10/23	V2.0	Team		Reporting structure developed
12/11/23	V2.1	Team		Update to structure
30/11/23	V2.2	Team		All partner contributions
6/12/23	V2.3	ZB		Summary of the contributions
21/12/23	V3	ZB		Final draft
21/12/23	V3.1	ZB / MWM	PMgT	Format and edits
27/6/24	V4	ZB		Revised version
10/7/24	V5.1	ZB		New version after the comments by the team
20/7/24	V5.2	ZB / MWM		Version edited & updated by whole team
24/7/24	V5.3	ZB / MWM	PMgT	Format and edits
8/12/25	V6.0	ZB / MWM	PMgT	Edited for public release

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EcoAdvance has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant no 101060497.

DISCLAIMER

Table of Contents

Summary **6**
1 Overview **7**
2 Preliminary Direction for Consultation and Showcases **8**
3 Country Review Summaries and Next Step Actions **9**
3.1 Austria 10
Overview of findings from different sources 10
Next steps 11
3.2 Belgium 12
Overview of findings from different sources 12
Next steps 12
3.3 Bulgaria 14
Overview of findings from different sources 14
Next steps 14
3.4 Croatia 16
Overview of findings from different sources 16
Next steps 17
3.5 Cyprus 18
Overview of findings from different sources 18
Next steps 19
3.6 Czech Republic 20
Overview of findings from different sources 20
Next steps 21
3.7 Denmark 23
Overview of findings from different sources 23
Next steps 24
3.8 Estonia 26
Overview of findings from different sources 26
Next steps 26
3.9 Finland 29
Overview of findings from different sources 29
Next steps 29
3.10 France 31
Overview of findings from different sources 31
Next steps 32
3.11 Germany 33
Overview of findings from different sources 33
Next steps 33
3.12 Greece 35
Overview of findings from different sources 35
Next steps 36
3.13 Hungary 37

Overview of findings from different sources 37
Next steps 38
3.14 Ireland 41
Overview of findings from different sources 41
Next steps 42
3.15 Israel 43
Overview of findings from different sources: Israel 43
Next steps 44
3.16 Italy 45
Overview of findings from different sources 45
Next steps 46
3.17 Latvia 47
Overview of findings from different sources 47
Next steps 48
3.18 Lithuania 50
Overview of findings from different sources 50
Next steps 51
3.19 Luxembourg 52
Overview of findings from different sources 52
Next steps 52
3.20 Malta 54
Overview of findings from different sources 54
Next steps 55
3.21 Netherlands 56
Overview of findings from different sources 56
Next steps 57
3.22 Poland 58
Overview of findings from different sources 58
Next steps 59
3.23 Portugal 60
Overview of findings from different sources 60
Next steps 61
3.24 Romania 62
Overview of findings from different sources 62
Next steps 63
3.25 Slovakia 65
Overview of findings from different sources 65
Next steps 66
3.26 Slovenia 67
Overview of findings from different sources 67
Next steps 68
3.27 Spain 70
Overview of findings from different sources 70

Next steps....71
3.28 Sweden....73
Overview of findings from different sources....73
Next steps....74
3.29 UK....75
Overview of findings from different sources....75
Next steps....76
4 Some Additional Sources of Information....77
4.1 Serbia....77
4.2 International organisations....77
5 Conclusions and Next Steps....80

Summary

The EcoAdvance Project aims to identify and showcase success in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe. The project team is undertaking a wide review of practice, identifying and consulting with people and projects to better understand how success is achieved by different stakeholders.

A starting assumption of this wide-ranging review is that River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), produced by all European Member States as part of implementing the Water Framework Directive, provide an accurate and useful window into country freshwater restoration landscapes. As such, a programme of RBMP reviews, country by country, were aimed at identifying relevant people and projects who may subsequently be consulted to better understand the detailed factors affecting and driving successful ecosystem restoration projects. As part of the review, consideration was also given to looking at restoration assessment frameworks, evaluation systems, guidance and standards – all with the common objective of achieving an initial identification of factors affecting the success of restoration projects along with the identification of people and projects for future consultation. This initial knowledge forms the basis for subsequent investigation through consultation.

This report (Deliverable D2.3) supports Deliverable D2.1, where the main strategy, frameworks and water management plans are presented detailing the preliminary review information on factors affecting the success of restoration projects.

This report (D2.3) presents an overview of the EcoAdvance team reviews which were focussed around the identification of relevant people and projects that may be contacted to participate in surveys, interviews and potentially the development of showcasing materials.

Since the availability and nature of information varied from country to country, a summary table for each country is presented, allowing a quick assessment of the review findings per country. Following the summary table, a concise list of ‘next step actions’ is provided, which the EcoAdvance partners will endeavour to undertake during the second project work period.

1 Overview

The EcoAdvance Project aims to identify and showcase success in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe. The project team is undertaking a wide review of practice, identifying and consulting with people and projects to better understand how success is perceived and achieved by different stakeholders.

The main aim of this report is to provide a preliminary list of potential consultation contacts and showcasing success projects. This Deliverable supports D2.1 (Report WP2-Dl-33: Preliminary review of information on factors affecting the success of restoration projects) and its main function is to summarise projects and people identified for the next steps in the consultation process. The whole work approach is an "*analysis that will comprise a review, country by country of the freshwater ecosystem restoration process, taking into account different factors affecting project design and implementation*" and is focused on the top-down identification of key roles / leaders / stakeholders who initiate and drive projects through. A bottom-up approach comprising a bibliographic review using modern search engine technology, is also implemented separately and reported under deliverable D2.2 (Report WP2-Dl-23). These two work actions feed into the development of a stakeholder consultation list (this deliverable: D2.3, Report WP2-Dl-50) which is used as part of the online consultation process, and feeds into development of the *Prone2Sucess* list of factors helping to positively influence and drive success (D2.4, Report WP2-Dl-51). This deliverable also supports the identification of potential showcases – individuals who can be role models - reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe.

The EcoAdvance team is undertaking a wide review of practice to better understand how success is perceived and achieved by different stakeholders, allowing the creation of the Prone2Sucess checklist, combined with showcasing examples of role models who demonstrate these practices. This initial workflow process is summarised in Figure 1 below.

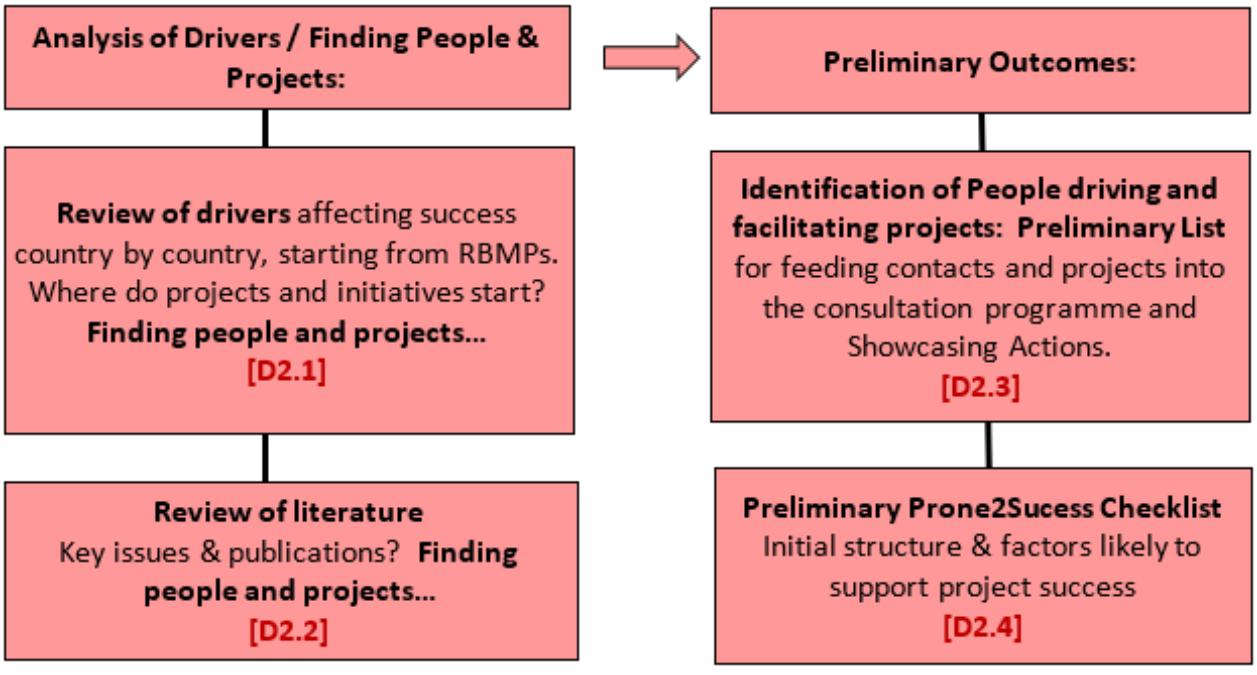

Figure 1 Initial review workflow process

2 Preliminary Direction for Consultation and Showcases

Information presented under Section 3 of this report provides an overview of review findings per country and then proposed individual “Next Steps” for the consultation process. These summaries include the initial list of people and projects identified from the whole review process (RBMPs, internet, lit review etc) – as per the Figure 1 flow diagram. These initial contact details then form the basis for subsequent contact, survey and consultation actions – leading eventually to the selection of interviews and showcases.

These details comprise the preliminary results of the EcoAdvance team in systematically identifying the "people" who have experience in implementing successful restoration projects and whose various efforts enable, plan research and contribute to freshwater restoration in each country. The list complements the general approach of Deliverable D2.1 and provides details of specific cases and people who can be further consulted with a view to coalesce and validate the P2S Checklist and potentially lead to showcase materials.

3 Country Review Summaries and Next Step Actions

The tables in the following sections provide a summary of findings (by country) in relation to identifying people and projects for further consultation. The tables provide an overview of findings from different sources relating to:

- Social and cultural factors
- Literature review
- RBMP reviews
- Internet searches
- LinkedIn and other social media
- ECOSTAT Working Group survey
- BIOEAST Initiative
- Project clusters
- LIFE programme
- Interreg framework
- ECRR
- Online consultees (registrants)
- Personal consultees

3.1 Austria

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Austria is divided into several river basin districts, including the Danube, Rhine, and Elbe. The management of these river basins involves a range of stakeholders, such as public authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The primary coordination of river basin management planning is conducted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management. In addition to national public authorities, organizations like the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) play a crucial role in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly in addressing transboundary water management issues. The ICPDR acts as a coordination platform to manage multilateral concerns within the Danube basin. Austria is committed to achieving the "good status" for its freshwater bodies as mandated by the WFD. However, the country's significant reliance on hydropower and navigation presents challenges to meeting the ecological objectives set forth in the WFD and the EU Green Deal. These activities often conflict with environmental goals, necessitating a balanced approach to ensure sustainable water management while supporting economic activities.
Literature review	The literature review for Austria proved fruitful, identifying 69 articles and providing the names of approximately 40 individuals and details of 10 projects.
RBMP reviews	Austria provided a list of LIFE projects within the RBMPs with project names This list includes both ongoing and completed projects, highlighting the country's efforts to align practical environmental initiatives with broader water management strategies (https://info.bml.gv.at/themen/wasser/wasser-eu-international/eu-foerderprogramme/life-natur.html).
Internet Searches	The literature review and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) identified a substantial number of stakeholders and projects. Additionally, internet searches revealed further information on national and regional projects, including INTERREG projects published by NGOs.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	LinkedIn was utilized to connect with scientists and practitioners in Austria, providing them with information and updates on the activities of EcoAdvance.
EcoStat	The EcoStat representative of Austria was contacted, but no reply was received.
BioEast	Austria is not part of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	The DANUBE4all project, coordinated by BOKU, represents a valuable initiative for clustering in our scientific report. BOKU is also a partner in the EcoDaLLi project.
LIFE programme	Austria provided a list of LIFE projects within the RBMPs with project names This list includes both ongoing and completed projects, highlighting the country's efforts to align practical environmental initiatives with broader water

	management strategies (https://info.bml.gv.at/themen/wasser/wasser-eu-international/eu-foerderprogramme/life-natur.html). For the period 2010-2023 there are 14 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Austria' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	WWF Austria and regional governments, including the Upper Austrian administration, have published information regarding Interreg projects such as INTERREG Bachlandschaften, along with relevant contact details. For the period 2014-present there are 2 projects identified under the search terms 'Austria' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Cooperation with ECRR is currently being established, and the RiverWiki is utilized to identify projects in Austria. Austria has 40 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Around 30-40 individuals identified through literature reviews, RBMPs, and LIFE projects were contacted. Approximately 10 of them provided responses or feedback regarding the possibility of participating in an interview for showcasing purposes.
Personal consultees	Personal consultations were facilitated through BOKU colleagues and project partners, as well as through the conference and workshop network of Austrian scientists and practitioners.

Next steps

A significant number of individuals and projects involved in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems in Austria were successfully identified. The literature review highlighted a robust presence of scientists active in this field, complemented by comprehensive project lists from the RBMPs and the LIFE program. Personal contacts through BOKU facilitated effective communication with key individuals, facilitating requests for showcasing.

Project clustering with DANUBE4all and EcoDaLLi is being planned. EcoAdvance has been integrated into the Living Labs organized by EcoDaLLi across Germany, Romania, and Croatia. Additionally, we are coordinating other clustering activities for cross-posting on social media and other dissemination efforts.

(i) **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up
(ii) Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

3.2 Belgium

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Some people contacted for interviews did not get back, possibly due to discomfort with participating in a recorded Zoom interview.
Literature review	The literature review findings for Belgium were moderate. Among the 37 results, approximately 15 individuals and project names were identified.
RBMP reviews	Belgium's RBMPs did not list a substantial number of projects or individuals. Therefore, additional searches were intensified to gather more information.
Internet Searches	Internet searches primarily directed to ministry websites and NGOs engaged in restoration projects in Belgium. Acquiring direct personal contact details proved somewhat challenging.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Individuals were initially contacted via LinkedIn, and the responses were generally positive. One contacted person expressed willingness to share details about their projects. However, when approached for showcase interviews, the feedback was hesitant.
EcoStat	N/A
BioEast	Belgium is not part of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	No projects from Belgium were identified for clustering.
LIFE programme	Several projects were identified through the LIFE programme, totalling 240 funded projects, of which 84 focused on "Nature & Biodiversity".
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 11 projects identified under the search terms 'Belgium' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Cooperation with ECRR is currently being established, and the RiverWiki is utilized to identify projects in Belgium. Belgium has 12 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	LinkedIn was a useful platform for contacting people involved in restoration work in Belgium. Recommended for contact: see https://www.linkedin.com/in/gert-verstraeten-084a0065/
Personal consultees	N/A

Next steps

For Belgium, only a limited number of people and projects could be identified through the literature review and RBMPs. Some stakeholders and active institutions could be identified through the LIFE programme:

- Belgian Nature Integrated Project (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE14-IPE-BE-000002/belgian-nature-integrated-project)

The Belgian nature Integrated project (BNIP) will develop and manage the operational planning for the implementation of the Flemish and Walloon region's prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs), and the execution of the Natura 2000 objectives of the Flemish, Walloon and federal governments. The objective of the integrated project is not to achieve all the objectives of the PAFs, but to contribute to their implementation by developing tools and expertise, enhancing involvement of administrations, strengthening participation and empowering stakeholders. The idea is that these outcomes for pilot restoration practices and management can be replicated in other Natura 2000 sites. In addition to sites in the Flemish and Walloon regions, the project will realise the targets identified in the federal marine PAF and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for achieving favourable conservation status of species and habitats.

Direct personal contact information is also stated in the description which led to Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos – an independent agency for nature conservation.

LinkedIn was also used to identify people involved in freshwater ecosystem restoration in Belgium. The contacted people (two people involved in the environmental ministry and project monitoring) replied positively but only one agreed to give an interview.

(iii) **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up

(iv) Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

3.3 Bulgaria

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The decision-making process is closed and hierarchical, based on the information from 2nd RBMP Assessment of the EU COM the responsibilities are divided in lots of organizations, which hindered the communication and the effective implementation of Program of Measures.
Literature review	Restoration carried out on wetlands, other articles deal with erosion vulnerability, sustainable use of resources of mining industry and flood risk management, which are not relevant topics in case of the project aims.
RBMP reviews	• 2 organization emails found, but the address had failure, not available now • It seems based on the Assessment of EU COM on 2nd RBMP of Bulgaria that the main focus was on the implementation of WFD, Flood Directive and other EU Directives, not on the restoration activity.
Internet Searches	1 project found
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	More people identified and contacted by LinkedIn, 2 people follow EcoAdvance
EcoStat	No answer from Bulgaria
BioEast	The BioEastFresh Water group is not active at the moment. We contacted with the DALIA Mission project for the future collaboration.
Project Clusters	SELINA project: 2 persons and clustering actions
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 4 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Bulgaria' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	• SELINA project: 2 persons follow EcoAdv • INTERREG DANUBE FLOODPLAIN project, 1 contact person
ECRR	Bulgaria has 7 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Ministry of Environment and Water: 2 persons • Environmental Agency: 1 person, suggest WWF Bulgaria • WWF Bulgaria: contacted 3 persons, 1 person will register
Personal consultees	• SELINA project: 2 persons • WWF Bulgaria: 1 person

Next steps

It seems based on the founded information that the focus of Bulgaria was the implementation of WFD, Flood Directive and other EU Directives, not the restoration activity. However, there are some

freshwater restoration projects, which could serve as good practice to new restoration projects in the future.

We discussed two organizations (Ministry of Environment and Water, Danube River Basin Directorate) and contacted people more times by email and by LinkedIn. We didn't get information about restoration projects and responsible persons for freshwater restoration issues in Bulgaria.

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- RESTORATION OF ATANASOVSKO LAKE: *http://nwrm.eu/case-study/restoration-atanasovsko-lake-bulgaria*
- RESTORE project: Bulgaria - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu).
    - Restoration of Rusenski Lom River near Ivanovo: Case study: Restoration of Rusenski Lom River near Ivanovo - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
    - Restoration of Vesselina River: Case study: Restoration of Vesselina River - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
    - Restoration, protection and sustainable development of protected area "Zlato pole": Case study: Restoration, protection and sustainable development of protected area "Zlato pole" - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
    - Restore riparian floodplain habitats maintained in reserve "Dolna topchia" and run off on his sleeve "Malka Tundzha": Case study: Restore riparian floodplain habitats maintained in reserve "Dolna topchia" and run off on his sleeve "Malka Tundzha" - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)

3.4 Croatia

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Croatia joined the EU in 2013 and has several EU Directives, which must implement and fulfil the requirements. This is a step-by-step approach as in other member states. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy together with Hrvatske vode (Croatian Waters) coordinate the projects in general, Croatian Waters/National parks/NGOs/contractors implement. NGOs (e.g., WWF Adria, IRES-ECOLOGY Ltd.) play an important role in restoration activity, but NGO's persons changed in most cases, and it is challenged to reach information, because the coordinator of the previous projects is working by other organizations and now it is no interest to share previous information.
Literature review	Most of the articles related to hydrodynamical, topographical data collection, wetlands and 2 of them include possible application of the nature-based solutions for flood protection and natural water retention areas, which could be useful information for the planning of restoration projects in future. 1 scientific paper describe the cyanobacterial blooms in a temperate river-floodplain ecosystem and the importance of hydrological extremes by flood management. Some local monitoring was carried out for fish-, mayfly and plant species to assure effective management and conservation programs. Indicative Status Assessment, Biodiversity Conservation, and Protected Areas within the Sava River Basin established a detailed analysis of the biodiversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates and fish of the main flow of the river. These are partially relevant, but not fit directly to the EcoAdvance goals.
RBMP reviews	• Due to the large number of different types of waters (river, lakes, transitional and coastal waters) and the wide range of professional requirements of different EU Directives, the implementation of the WFD in Croatia is expected to be fulfilled by the 3rd RBMP. In this case *the freshwater restoration topic will be the next one issues after the successful implementation steps for the development of WFD complaint monitoring, methods, and assessment systems.* • no projects and people were identified in Croatian RBMPs
Internet Searches	• INTERREG DANUBE FLOODPLAIN project, 1 contact person • More organizations were found (WWF Adria, IRES-ECOLOGY Ltd.), contacted, but didn't get any answers.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	• contacted on LinkedIn with 9 persons, they follow EcoAdv, 1 person registered
EcoStat	• contacted with ECOSTAT members, got answers, suggested 2 people and contacted with WWF Adria
BioEast	The BioEastFresh Water group is not active at the moment. We contacted with the DALIA Mission project for the future collaboration.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Croatia.
LIFE programme	• DRAVA LIFE – Integrated management of rivers (is ongoing until 30. Nov. 2024)

	For the period 2010-2023 there are 3 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Croatia' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	• INTERREG DANUBE FLOODPLAIN project, 1 contact person • COOP MDD Transboundary Management Program for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" project, 1 contact person (WWF Austria…) For the period 2014-present there are 3 projects identified under the search terms 'Croatia' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	• SEE River Project • Transboundary Management Program for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" - COOP MDD Croatia has 3 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy: contacted 1 person, who is ECOSTAT member, 1 project and 2 persons suggested by WWF Adria • Croatian Waters: contacted 1 person • WWF Adria: contacted 4 persons, 1 person registered • IRES-ECOLOGY Ltd.: contacted 1 person, no answer • National parks and nature parks: no contact and freshwater restoration projects identified • Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund: no contact and freshwater restoration projects identified
Personal consultees	CER contacted more people, active information exchange with 3 persons by email and LinkedIn.

Next steps

The opinion of the different organisations and policymakers were reflected (Ministry of Environment and Energy; Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; Croatian Waters-successor: Institute for Water "Josip Juraj Strossmayer"; WWF Adria; Global Water Partnership - Central and Eastern Europe (GWP-CEE); IRES-ECOLOGY Ltd.; Oikon- Institute of Applied Ecology). The different stakeholders were contacted via LinkedIn and some websites were searched.

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- DRAVA LIFE – Integrated management of rivers: Project - Drava Life (drava-life.hr)
- COOP MDD Transboundary Management Programme for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" project: coop MDD - Interreg Danube (interreg-danube.eu)
- SEE River Project.

3.5 Cyprus

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Cyprus political division in to the Cypriot and Turkish segments, with British miliary occupying some land and keeping the two sides apart, narrows the attention that might be spent on freshwater restoration. As an Island, the cultural wiring has been very water supply focused, thus 106 dams have been built and are part of the cultural heritage even though they are rarely filled today. Most drinking water provided today is from desalinated water but the pace of freshwater restorations is slow.
Literature review	• 16 of the 37 articles were somewhat relevant, generally focused on specific species inventories and measurement methodologies. There were no specific descriptions or evaluations of restoration projects, though several of the species-specific articles recommended that restoration and conservation actions be taken
RBMP reviews	This was one of the most useful sources in that many consultants were involved in the various evaluations and planning exercises and they were cited specifically, enabling follow up with them.
Internet Searches	This was an integral piece of the pathway to find people and projects. When a name surfaced in another source, complementary searches were undertaken on the internet to locate them, contact them and understand their contributions over time.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Linked in served well. Of the 17 people I attempted to contact through Linked in 12 agreed to connect and one did not use Linked in often but I successfully contacted through other channels. Several others contacted with a total of 15 connections in Cyprus so far.
EcoStat	Did not respond
BioEast	Not a member
Project Clusters	Some of these clusters led to projects that led to individuals but people in Cyprus have only minimal involvement. There is some participation in Ecosystem Services work.
LIFE programme	The LIFE Program in Cyprus is significant and was a good source of information and dialogue.
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there is 1 project identified under the search terms 'Cyprus' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	This country is not represented in ECRR or Restore and has no entries in the RiverWiki.

Online consultees	The Cyprus people who registered were a product of contact rather than the other way around.
Personal consultees	Mostly cold calls and connections from connections.

Next steps

Cyprus focus is supplying side – achieving a continuous supply of drinking water and in a difficult climate with significant droughts. Thus, funding and focus on freshwater restoration is limited but increasing because of the WFD requirements and the LIFE project. Note that most of the potential showcases have individuals and NGOs associated with them (Work-in-process)

- Xeros River at Pomos- District of Paphos (December 2013)
- Amathos River in Germasogeia- District of Limassol (January 2016)
- Continued restoration and reintroduction of the freshwater blenny (Cyprus Environment Association)
- Pentaschoinos River in Lefkara (February 2017)
- Kouris River in Limnatis- District of Limassol (February 2018)
- Life Oroklini Project restoring Natura 2000 site
- Reptile Encyclopedia project (Saavas Zotos)
- Terra Cypria NGO
- Mine Restoration and reforesting
- Zero Discharge Project
- Troodos Mountain mine cleanup

Several NGOs have agreed to collaborate on responding to the survey and a key government official registered for the consultation. The Chamber of Commerce reached out and an EcoAdvance/water sustainability presentation was presented to their members. Further connections on Linked in are expected.

3.6 Czech Republic

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	In CR, the water management planning is a systematic policy-making activity ensured by the State, aiming to define and harmonise public interests in the protection of waters as environmental components, reduce negative impacts of floods and droughts, and promote sustainable use of water resources. CR is divided between 5 Main Basins: Elba, Vltava, Odra, Ohre and Morava. As part of the project, we contacted representatives of all river basins and looked for ready-made projects focused on river revitalization, as well as people who are responsible for these projects and could collaborate on the preparation of show cases. We have not always been successful and, for example, in the Odra river basin we have not been able to find support. This was probably due to the fact that there is still most of the management that was responsible for the violent straightening of streams in the last century, as part of the rapid drainage of surface waters to Polish territory. Revitalization is not a priority here and there are no projects to be presented like best practices. Within other river basins, we were successful and found suitable projects and designers or investors who were involved in the projects and discussed the issue. A list of selected projects is presented in the following “Next steps”, and they are the core for our future contacts and discussions of the conditions of the successful implementation and how the social and cultural factors are influencing the projects.
Literature review	The review was rather general, rather than specific for restoration. Most of the restorations were implemented the public administration or water Management Bodies and were not published in scientific papers. We used the internet and mainly the personal contacts – representatives from the 5 main catchment areas in CR.
RBMP reviews	Competencies in the RBMP planning process in CR is following: National River Basin Plans are created by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the respective river basin managers and locally competent regional authorities. The national plans are approved by the Government. Next, the Sub-basin Management Plans are created by river basin managers according to their competence in cooperation with the respective regional authorities and with central water authorities and are approved by the Regions according to their local competence. In practice, engineering offices, consultancies in the field of hydraulic engineering, and research institutions engaged by the river basin managers are involved in the creation of sub-basin management plans. Within the Czech Republic, we found 14 projects and about 10 persons who were happy to participate in the discussion about the implemented projects. These were investors and main project investigators, but also scientists who are generally interested in the issue of river restoration. To document 5 show cases, we chose experts who wanted to speak on camera, and we then went to see them. We found out that personal contact was very important and many of the experts we contacted agreed that we will come and film them and were happy

	to show off their achievements. However, everyone reacted negatively to the possibility of online discussion. That is why in the Czech Republic there was a recording of show cases with personal assistance and often on the spot of the projects being solved.
Internet Searches	The web pages of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, River basin management organizations and Biosphere reserves were used. However, we mostly used the personal contacts.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	We used the LinkedIn only.
EcoStat	We reach the EcoStat representatives of the CR, and they help us to contact the representatives of the Water management Bodies / catchments areas. The main contact was from the Catchment Vltava.
BioEast	The current representative of the BIOEAST initiative in CR and as well the leader of the Frech Water for Bioeconomy Thematic Group was not very open to cooperation, it is obvious that the BioEastFresh Water group is not active at the moment. Thus, we used the contacts with the DALIA Mission project for the future collaboration and clustering.
Project Clusters	DALIA project (Danube Region Water Lighthouse Action, n. 101094070; financed under the call HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02).
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there is 1 LIFE funded project identified under the search terms 'Czech' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	The related Interreg projects were included in RBMPs – Morava river basin, transboundary collaboration with Austria in the area "Soutok" and the CE1412 boDEREC to improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources (Board for Detection and Assessment of Pharmaceutical Drug Residues in Drinking Water - Capacity Building for Water Management in CE). For the period 2014-present there are 2 projects identified under the search terms 'Czech Republic' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Czech Republic has 3 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Czech University of Life Sciences, Water Research Institute TGM, Biosphere Reserve Lower Morava, Water Management Body – catchment Morava.
Personal consultees	Yes: 4 under contact

Next steps

We will consult and discuss with several responsible organizations/people who can be role models --reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe focusing on the Czech Republic "success stories" (by email/phone or personally). We selected the cases, which have showcase potential and some of them are the strong showcase projects. We identified main successful projects to be contacted:

- Revitalization of the confluence Vřesůvky and Malého stream Radotínský stream,
- Revitalization of the km 12,13 - 13,43
- Revitalization of the river Vltavy, Vraňany - Hořín, I. stage
- Support for spontaneous renaturation of the Morava River near Štěpánov Dyje,
- Connection of the decommissioned branches of the D9 and D8 and connection of the D18 arm Velké Pavlovice –revitalization of the Trkmanka river and floodplain Dyje,
- 81,550-84,028 - Novosedly retention area Bečva,
- km 42,480 – 44,135 – Revitalization of the stream Černotín
- Bečva, km 44,135 – 45,855 – Revitalization of the stream Skalička
- Ašský stream
- Bílý Halštrov
- Rozkoš, Domkov, revitalization of the riverbed Orlice, Týniště nad Orlicí,
- Revitalization of the Jordan Arm Labe, Labiště pod Opočínkem, revitalization of the blind shoulder

3.7 Denmark

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	In general, the Ministry of Environment, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency and the municipalities manage the projects.
Literature review	The most frequent topics from 51 articles are: sediment management, improve fish/Atlantic salmon populations, land use/agriculture effects/nitrogen pollution on water quality, there is also a case study of the Danish AGWAplan project, which actively involved farmers in the selection of measures to reduce diffuse nutrient pollution at farm and catchment level. Other articles are partially relevant: presented a process-based forecasting models for success of restoration flow management on cyanobacteria dynamics or short-term effects of low-head barrier removals on fish communities and habitats. *5 papers are relevant*: 1 paper explores and evaluates the knowledge governance employed by decision-makers to successfully implement EBM in a complex setting. Conclusions are drawn from a case study based on 30 qualitative interviews, document analysis, and observational participation in *Denmark's second largest river restoration project, the Houting project* (Giebels et al., 2015). 1 paper is a case study on restoring connectivity: evaluated the effects of a large restoration project (pseudo dam removal) in River Kolding, Southern Jutland, Denmark, via a before-after-control-impact (BACI) approach, using a large dataset of electrofishing data from 74 sites (including downstream unaffected sites, reconnected sites and upstream regulated sites), was found that habitat connectivity was restored successfully (Birnie-Gauvin et. al, 2020). Restoration and ecological changes of Skjern River and its valley (Pedersen et. al, 2017). Using a system thinking approach to assess the contribution of nature based solutions to sustainable development goals (Gómez et. al, 2020). In a study was compared two commonly used methods in small Danish streams to improve the physical condition: re-meandering and passive restoration through cease of maintenance (Kristensen et. al, 2013). Ecological and social dimensions of ecosystem restoration in the Nordic countries was compared and assessed by habitat types/socio-economic drivers/efforts/methods to improve the understanding, planning, and implementation of ecological restoration (Hagen et. al, 2013). *Showcase potential have 2 paper and projects*: River connectivity reestablished: evaluated the effects of removing 6 weirs in River Villestrup (Jutland, Denmark) on the smolt run of brown trout (Salmo trutta) over the course of 12 years (Birnie-Gauvin et. al, 2018, kbir@aqua.dtu.dk). Other paper is *new and has very strong showcase potential* because synthesizes results of a *five-year project (BIOWATER)* that assessed the effects of a developing bioeconomy on Nordic freshwaters and found that nature-based solutions optimize natural biogeochemical processes and thus can help in mitigating negative impacts of intensified biomass removal on water quality (Vermaat et. al, 2023, *www.biowater.info*).

RBMP reviews	• Danish RBMPs are very informative and well structured, however since it is in Danish it is hard to gain information for projects and persons. • However general information found: the hydro morphological pressure on rivers and lakes has been reduced in the 2nd RBMP by the removal of 32 physical barrages in watercourses and restoration of 191 km of watercourses.
Internet Searches	We searched projects form the LIFE project database, however most of the projects were coordinated by ASTRA-ELE which is a private consultant company. We have no information about the person who led these projects.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	No
EcoStat	Contacted with ECOSTAT member- The Danish ECOSTAT member did not any reply to our email.
BioEast	Not applicable
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Denmark.
LIFE programme	9 projects and 3 contact persons identified
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	7 projects selected, only contact person's name found For the period 2014-present there are 2 projects identified under the search terms 'Denmark' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Denmark has 12 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Aarhus University, Institut for Ecoscience: contacted 1 person, registered • University of Copenhagen: contacted 1 person, registered • NaturRådgivningen A/S, Nstved Kommune: contacted 1-1 expert, no answer • National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) and DCE - Danish Centre For Environment And Energy: sent an email to register, no answer
Personal consultees	No

Next steps

- LIFE database:
  - *LIFE04 NAT/DK/000022, Regional Actions to Improve Nature in River Odense and Odense Fjord: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/2322*
  - *LIFE99 ENV/DK/000619, European Centre for River Restoration: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/726*
  - *LIFE00 NAT/DK/007116, Restoration of habitats and wildlife of the Skjern River: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/1637*
  - *LIFE02 NAT/DK/008589, Restoration of Lake Fure - a nutrient-rich lake near Copenhagen: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/1896*

- *LIFE07 NAT/DK/000100, Re-establishing a natural water flow level in the river system "Mølleåen": https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/2878*

- RESTORE project:
  - Odder Stream Restoration: Case study: Odder Stream Restoration - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
  - River Gelsa at Bevtoft: Case study: River Gelsa at Bevtoft - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
  - River Varde Valley and the meadows of Ho Bay (Ho Bugt) environment improvement project: Case study: River Varde Valley and the meadows of Ho Bay (Ho Bugt) environment improvement project - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)

3.8 Estonia

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	It seems that personal contacts have a main role in communication and receiving information.
Literature review	The articles from literature review contains information for bank restoration and flood management of meadows, some of them for protection of fish species, like Atlantic sturgeon or porifera/macrophytes/amphibia species. They are not relevant for EcoAdvance purposes.
RBMP reviews	• 1 person contacted also in LinkedIn, who follow the EcoAdv project • Implementation of the measures foreseen in the Programme of Measures (PoM) included in the 2nd RBMP are being implemented with satisfactory level: 56% of measures implemented with further 10% of measures completed partially for surface waters, the planned and implemented measures are contributing significantly to reaching objectives of the WFD in 2021 and 2027
Internet Searches	• RETROUT project • Wildlife Estonia: contacted 1 person, 4 projects
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	• 3 followers of EcoAdv projects: 1 person from Env Agency, 1 from RBMP review, 1 from LinkedIn searches
EcoStat	• Contacted with ECOSTAT member: 2 projects, 4 people identified
BioEast	Not applicable.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Estonia.
LIFE programme	4 projects found
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	• EU INTERREG-Baltic Sea Program: RETROUT project • SER project: University of Tartu, 2 persons- activity are not for freshwater restoration • Gov4Water: smart, efficient and adaptive water management
ECRR	• 2 persons, 3 projects identified Estonia has 4 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Ministry of Environment: contacted 3 persons • Environmental Board: contacted 1 person • Estonian Environment Agency: contacted 2 persons, 1 person registered, 2 projects suggested and listed the implemented measures for 54 fish-passage removing between 2011-2022 in Estonia • State Forest Management Centre: contacted 1 person • Wildlife Estonia: contacted 1 person, 4 projects
Personal consultees	CER has active contact with 1 person (from the Environmental Agency), who will give showcase interview.

Next steps

We discussed with more organizations (Ministry of Environment; Estonian Environmental Board; Estonian Environment Agency; State Forest Management Centre; Wildlife Estonia, University of Tartu) and people by email and by LinkedIn. We also looked at the websites of different organizations.

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- **The Ministry of Environment and the Estonian Environment Agency shared their experiences on the efficiency of dam construction and dam demolition and the operation of fish passages.**

Estonia already has 10 years of data on effectiveness of fish passages.

Altogether 54 dams were removed between 2000-2022 in Estonia, consequently the restoration activity is remarkable and outstanding at European level in the country.

Estonia has done assessments of the efficiency of the fish passes and this could be valuable experiences and information for other European countries, who are planning or constructing fish passes.

One of the biggest projects implemented on the Pärnu river basin.

River restoration in Pärnu river basin *(project has very high showcase potential)***:**

Pärnu river is the biggest historical salmon river in the country with a potential twice as big as the other rivers altogether to improve salmon populations and *is a Natura 2000 type habitat.*

During this project the Sindi dam has been removed with another 6 dams in this river system, so thanks to that more than 3000 km of rivers are now open for migratory fish and *the surveys shows that for example river lamprey is swimming hundreds of km upstream*.

- **Wildlife Estonia:**
  - LIFE Happyriver (loodushoid.ee)
  - HAPPYFISH: LIFE+ project "Saving life in meanders and oxbow lakes of Emajõgi River on Alam-Pedja NATURA 2000 area" (loodushoid.ee)
  - LIFE Baltic Sturgeon (loodushoid.ee)
  - LIFE AdaptEst (loodushoid.ee)
- **RESTORE project:**
  - Creation of spawning ground for Baltic salmon, anadromous brown trout and river lamprey at Veneküla rapid, river Pirita
  - Onga River
  - The Umbusi River
- **RETROUT project:**
  - River restoration in Estonia – Retrout
- **In the RETROUT project three different restoration projects were investigated in detail for Estonia, determining factors contributing to success, failure or non-realization**. The first of these was a **project in river Pada**. With the aim to allow upstream and downstream migrations of sea trout, the restoration included replacement of an old mill dam with a nature-like fishway in the original riverbed. In addition, new spawning grounds were established. It was a long-term project targeted to a great part of the river catchment. The project was rated as a success in terms of restoring the abundance and diversity of sea trout and other fauna and had high acceptance by stakeholders. Interviews with the implementing agency and other stakeholders showed that several factors within the implementation

process probably led the way to the success. These included absence of conflicting stakeholder interests, a positive legal/policy framework following Natura 2000 regulations that made fish passage in rivers compulsory, good technical design and its effective implementation, good stakeholder communication, and support from key actors primarily at the Environmental Board (national level) and the local municipality. Also, adequate funds were available to support the project.

On the contrary **the restoration project implemented in river Kunda became a failure**. This project comprised the construction of a fish lift over a dam. This was a poor technical solution with no evidence of ever working. Also, represented a limited vision with confinement in just one isolated river stretch, while there also existed obstacles downstream which were not considered. The latter could have continued to prevent fish migration even if the lift was better designed and working, preventing achievement of the project goal. A **planned restoration project in the transboundary river Narva became non-realized** because of political reasons characterized by lack of consensus and coordination between the key actors based in Estonia and Russia.

3.9 Finland

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The Finnish approach is very pro community engagement, encouraging people to apply online for co funding of projects, with co working solutions. Information is openly available online.
Literature review	The review identified 48 publications of which ~10% (5) were found to be directly relevant, 15% (7) partially relevant and the rest 75% (36) not appropriate for our goals.
RBMP reviews	The RBMPs do not lead directly to people and projects, however internet searches do.
Internet Searches	The government openly publishes details of restoration programmes and funding options. Government contacts are provided.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	People identified / registered through the EcoAdvance social media programme will be contacted.
EcoStat	No response from the country representative.
BioEast	Not applicable – Finland is not a member of this group.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Finland (although European networks and projects are represented in France and will be consulted via those routes).
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 3 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Finland’ ‘River Restoration’.
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 3 projects identified under the search terms ‘Finland’ ‘Water Management’ ‘Biodiversity Preservation’ of which 2 are relevant to EcoAdvance.
ECRR	The RiverWiki contains 28 entries from Finland – roughly 2% of the entries.
Online consultees	The original EcoAdvance online survey – promoted through the EcoAdvance social media posts – has no registrants from Finland.
Personal consultees	Personal contact by CER provides a direct link to SYKE restoration experts.

Next steps

(1) Team personal contacts:

a. 3 direct contacts provided by SYKE.

(2) Review and select from the **28 RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

(3) Work through the **14+ government and programme contacts** identified as part of the internet search.

(4) **LIFE and Interreg Projects**: Review and select contacts from the 6 Finnish managed projects

3.10 France

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The French system tends to operate via or in collaboration with state funded organisations.
Literature review	The review identified 193 publications of which ~9% (18) were found to be directly relevant, 9% (18) partially relevant and the rest 82% (157) not appropriate for our goals. This provides a solid list of authors to invite to undertake the survey.
RBMP reviews	Searching for details of people and projects via RBMPs in France was not particularly productive since there is a tendency to publish contractual information rather than to promote the restoration project work itself.
Internet Searches	Could identify local catchment groups, but typically finding websites with generic contact info only. SER membership provides access to a very useful webinar providing an overview on the French position for restoration work. Identification of a mill owners association group is also interesting. The challenges faced by this group are protecting industrial heritage versus restoration activities, such as enhancing river connectivity.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	People identified / registered through the EcoAdvance social media programme will be contacted.
EcoStat	No response from the country representative.
BioEast	Not applicable – France is not a member of this group.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for France (although European networks and projects are represented in France and will be consulted via those routes).
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 8 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘France’ ‘River Restoration’. Many are related to large river restoration programmes.
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 7 projects identified under the search terms ‘France’ ‘Water Management’ ‘Biodiversity Preservation’. Perhaps ½ of these are relevant to EcoAdvance.
ECRR	The RiverWiki contains 84 entries from France – roughly 6% of the entries.
Online consultees	The original EcoAdvance online survey – promoted through the EcoAdvance social media posts – has 1 registrant from France.

Personal consultees	Links with the hydropower community have resulted in contacts leading to showcasing.

Next steps

Actions for survey and consultation will comprise:

(1) **EDF.** Long term restoration actions associated with hydropower barrages.

(2) Association of mill owners – balancing cultural / industrial heritage with restoration in France.

(3) **EcoAdvance survey & social media registrants** – personal follow up

(4) **SER Overview of Restoration in France**: Personal contact with each speaker and review of progress with new French projects database (INRAE, IMBE, OFB)

(5) **SHF 2022 Conference** → interest in dam owners to demonstrate restoration solutions. List of 27 contacts provided from the conference.

(6) **LIFE Projects**: Review and select contacts from the 8 French based projects

(7) **Review and select from the 84 RiverWiki entries**, plus working via recommendations from the ECRR Board

3.11 Germany

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Germany is highly proactive, with numerous projects and individuals actively engaged in freshwater restoration efforts. The RBMPs provide extensive information on these projects.
Literature review	The literature review for Germany yielded significant results, identifying 294 articles and numerous project and individual names (over 50).
RBMP reviews	Germany included a list of projects within the RBMPs, detailing project names and case studies, though primarily without accompanying contact information.
Internet Searches	Internet searches yielded numerous projects conducted in Germany or coordinated by German entities at EU, national, and regional levels.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	LinkedIn was used to connect with people involved in freshwater restoration in Germany to inform them about EcoAdvance activities/updates.
EcoStat	EcoStat person was contacted but no response.
BioEast	Germany is not a member of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	The BioAgora project was identified as a clustering initiative due to its aligned objectives. A workshop is scheduled for August during the Alpine River Symposium in Burghausen, Germany.
LIFE programme	A list of projects funded by the LIFE programme was compiled, totaling 422 projects funded, with 152 focusing on "Nature and Biodiversity". For the period 2010-2023 there are 16 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Deutschland' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 8 projects identified under the search terms 'Germany' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Cooperation with ECRR is currently being established, and the RiverWiki is utilized to identify projects in Germany. Germany has 17 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Several people (approximately 25) were contacted after being identified through online searches and RBMPs. One individual has already been interviewed as a showcase participant, and three to four others have expressed openness to further consultation.
Personal consultees	Personal consultations were facilitated through project partners, as well as through the conference and workshop network of German scientists and practitioners.

Next steps

A substantial number of individuals and projects engaged in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems in Germany were successfully identified. The literature review revealed a significant presence of scientists active in the field, while the RBMPs and the LIFE programme provided a

comprehensive list of projects. Personal contacts from BOKU facilitated easier communication with individuals, enabling requests for showcases. The utilization of LinkedIn and other social media channels proved unnecessary.

LIFE Programme project examples:

- Living River Lahn – one river, many interests (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE14-IPE-DE-000022/living-river-lahn-one-river-many-interests)

The primary goal of the Living River Lahn project is to enhance the ecological status/potential of surface waters within the Lahn catchment area through a comprehensive, synergistic, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder approach. Additionally, the project aims to develop a "Lahn-Concept" for the catchment area, which includes various thematic studies and involves intensive dialogue with stakeholders. This concept aims to manage the river as an inland waterway of minor importance for waterborne transport while prioritizing water-ecological and nature protection objectives.

The LIFE project also provided direct contact information for individuals involved.

(i) organize a workshop with BioAgora on stakeholder perspectives regarding freshwater ecosystems (rivers).
(i) EcoAdvance survey registrant – individual personal follow up
(ii) Review RiverWiki

3.12 Greece

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	We get answer from the Greek Water Authority, however told that they cannot send us the up to date (3rd) RBMP since it was not finalized. We also did not get info for projects. There is a decentralized structure at region level along with the Ministry of Environment, who make the prioritization of the projects. The projects are managed either by the regional authorities or by the Ministry of Environment, main roles have the regional organizations by implementation. There are more competent authorities and stakeholders also, who initiated the restoration (like Democritus University of Thrace, National Park directorates (e.g., Prespa National Park), Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (state owned research institute), Balkan Environment Centre).
Literature review	More studies included as main topic: sustainable water resources-management/intermittent rivers/conservation measures issues. 4 of them are relevant: 1 scientific paper assessed based on historical and WFD-compliant data, the recent inter-annual ecological status and the long-term chemical-physicochemical quality trends of eighteen characteristic Greek rivers. Proposals have been formulated considering both policy/administrative and technical issues for next RBMP, for authorities and for public (Skoulikidis et al., 2021). The Mygdonia agricultural basin is a case study of a highly negative water balance system that highlights the shortcomings of both water management and adaptation in Greece, a set of different development adaptation strategies was applied and assessed (Kolokytha, 2022). 1 case study concerns the Kalloni river basin (Lesvos Island, Greece), examines Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to provide flood risk mitigation and proactive adaptation options (Koutsovili et. al, 2023). 1 paper delt with environmental impacts of large-scale hydropower projects and applied ecohydrology solutions for watershed restoration: the case of Nestos river (Sylaios et al., 2017).
RBMP reviews	• The 1st and 2nd RBMPs (the English version) do not contain information, data on restoration projects and persons. • Significant gaps found in the number of water bodies (lakes and rivers) sampled and evaluated, it drew mainly on expert judgement in both assessment and classification.
Internet Searches	The LIFE projects found.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	4 followers for EcoAdv project
EcoStat	We contacted the ECOSTAT member, he fulfilled ECOSTAT questionnaire, suggested 2 experts
BioEast	Not applicable.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Greece.
LIFE programme	7 persons and 10 projects identified

Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 7 projects identified under the search terms 'Greece' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	3 projects and 3 persons name identified, but description about projects is available in RiverWiki only for 1 LIFE project and email-address to the contact persons not found for projects.
Online consultees	The people are not active in consultation, did not get reply to our emails yet.
Personal consultees	No

Next steps

Restoration projects and persons could be identified in the LIFE project database (https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en) and direct search on the web (Google, ResearchGate). Restoration projects made in Greece mostly targeted certain species (mostly birds) rather than habitats or water quality in general.

Most of the projects aim to create or improve wetlands, lagoons, with additional effect on the surrounding rivers and lakes. WFD aims appear indirectly in these projects.

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- **LIFE projects:**
  - **LIFE98 NAT/GR/005279:** Conservation measures for the endangered fish Ladigesocypris ghigii: The project aims at the recovery and conservation of Ladigesocypris ghigii (common name: Gizani, a small-bodied endemic fish species) populations within two pSCIs in Rhodes. The project aims to create refuges/model biotopes:
  - **LIFE00 NAT/GR/007198**: Restoration and conservation management of Drana lagoon in Evros Delta
  - **LIFE02 NAT/GR/008489**: Habitat Management and Raptor Conservation in Nestos Delta and Gorge
  - **LIFE02 NAT/GR/008491**: Conservation management in Strofylia-Kotychi
  - **LIFE00 ENV/D/000351**: Living Lakes: Sustainable Management of wetlands and shallow lakes.

3.13 Hungary

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	There is a hierarchical decision-making system in the public administration, all professional activities, public statements need support and permission of the organization and leaders. We contacted the relevant ministries (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Agriculture), heads of regional organizations (Directorate-General for Water, Water Directorates and National Park Directorates) to obtain support and permission to involve and reach the appropriate contact persons for consultation. Some NGOs are actively engaged in restoration issues and are more open to sharing experiences.
Literature review	Most of the restoration implemented the public administration and flood risk mitigation and optimizing sustainable land/ nutrient management issues to improve water quality/trophic state were published in scientific papers. Some articles were available for wetlands/floodplain/oxbows rehabilitation.
RBMP reviews	Hungarian RBMPs are informative and give good basics for the restoration country-review of the project. 2nd RBMP in restoration projects point of view: ○ KEOP projects: 27 habitat-reconstruction projects implemented under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Park Directorates (*Annex 8.13 in 2nd RBMP*). ○ 47 projects were selected which could have a good impact to achieve good ecological status (*Annex 8.2 in 2nd RBMP*). 3rd RBMP in restoration projects point of view: ○ 278 projects listed in frame of the KEHOP 1.3.0 as hydromorphological mitigation measures. ○ Restoration projects leaded by National Park Directorates: ○ 41 habitat-rehabilitation projects (for rivers, lakes, wetlands, sodic lakes). 42 contact person's names were found based on Annexes of 2nd and 3rd RBMPs and as feedback to the official letter from Ministries to regional organizations.
Internet Searches	Some projects were found on the homepage of the General Directorates of Water Management and of the regional Water Directorates, which were not included in 2nd or 3rd RBMPs: 5 people, 5 projects.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	More people identified and contacted by LinkedIn, 14 people follow EcoAdv
EcoStat	ECOSTAT questionnaire completed, projects and people identified
BioEast	The BioEastFresh Water group is not active at the moment. We contacted with the DALIA Mission project for the future collaboration.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Hungary.
LIFE programme	● Most of the LIFE projects were included in RBMPs ● 2 people and 2 projects: WWF Hungary and Hortobágy Environmentral Association

	For the period 2010-2023 there are 3 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Hungary' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	• INTERREG- RaabSTAT For the period 2014-present there are 9 projects identified under the search terms 'Hungary' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	5 projects and 3 people identified, for 2 projects only contact name found Hungary has 16 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• 1 person (JRC) registered • official letter from Ministry of Agriculture + email to the National Park Directorates contact persons: 4 people registered, 9 projects suggested official letter from Ministry of Interior: projects suggested
Personal consultees	• Ministry of Agriculture: from regional National Park Directorates 4 people registered • Ministry of Interior: from Water Directorates projects suggested • WWF Hungary: 1 people registered, 1 project suggested for showcase interview • WWF Central Europe: 1 leader person registered, suggested people at WWF Romania and WWF Bulgaria, those registered • Hortobágy Environmentral Association: 1 person registered, 1 project suggested for showcase interview

Next steps

We consulted with several responsible organizations (Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Agriculture; trough ministries the General Directorate of Water Management, the 12 Regional Water Directorates and the 10 National Park Directorates; WWF Hungary, Hortobágy Environmental Association) people more times by email/phone or by LinkedIn. Projects were selected, which have showcase potential and some of them could be a strong showcase project.

National Park Directorates:

- ***Danube-Ipel National Park Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2010-0003/Conservation of nature values in Danube-Ipel National Park Directorates (Hévíz-stream, Ipel)- STRONG SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
  - KEHOP-4.1.0-15-2016-00008/Improving freshwater habitats in Tát-Inselgroup area
  - KEHOP-4.1.0-15-2016-00053/Complex improvements on infrastructure of habitat-conservation the Tápió region
- ***Őrség National Park Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2010-0006/Complex habitat-rehabilitation in area of Őrség National Park Directorates (Csörnöc-Herpenyő catchment)

- KEHOP-4.1.0-15-2015-00002/Reconstruction of the meadows in Doroszló at the bottom of the Kőszeg mountain

- ***Kiskunság National Park Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2009-0014/Habitat-reconstructions in Kiskunság National Park Directorates (Kolon lake) 1, 3. project component
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2009-0015/Habitat-reconstructions in Kiskunság National Park Directorates (Madarász lake) 2. project component
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2010-0025/Habitat-reconstructions in Izsák on Kolon lake- STRONG SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
  - KEHOP-4.1.0-15-2016-00080/Restoration of the natural bed formation of Péteri-lake
- ***Kőrös-Maros National Park Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2009-0013/Habitat-protection and restoration in National Park Directorates of Kőrös-Maros

Water Management Directorates:

- ***North-Hungarian Water Management Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.1./2F/09-2010-0017/Nature protection rehabilitation on Takta-channel between Kesznyéten and Tiszalúc-STRONG SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
  - UNDP/GEF Tisza MS/Place for waters on the Bodrog catchment area, Vissi- oxbows demonstration project-part -HAS SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
- ***Kőrös District Water Management Directorate:***
  - KEOP-3.1.2./2F/09-2009-0001/Ensure longitudinal continuity by dam of Körösladány-
  - KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-2012-0016/ Ensure longitudinal continuity by barrage of Békésszentandrás in middle section of Hármas- Körös
- ***Lower Danube Valley Water Management Directorate:***
  - BKM/01/21274-9/2013/Bulding of Kadia-Ó-Duna water-reservoir
- ***South-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate:***
  - DDOP-5.1.5-E-12k-1-2012-0001/Water supply by oxbows Cún-Szaporca in frame of Program Old-Dráva
  - DDOP-5.1.5/A-09-2010-0001/Side arms revitalisation in Felsőszentmárton on Dráva river- HAS SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
  - ***SEE RIVERS project:*** Project SEE River (see-river.net),
- ***West-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate:***
  - KEOP-7.3.1.2/09-2010-0032 and KEOP-3.1.2/2F/09-11-2012-0011/Rehabilitation I. and II. on Pinka river by Felsőcsatár, Pornóapáti
  - OPENWEHR AT-HU-03/013/L00023/Ensure longitudinal continuity of the dam by transboundary part of the Rába- HAS SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
  - AQUAPINKA: AquaPinka - Interreg (interreg-athu.eu)- HAS SHOWCASE POTENTIAL how to prepare the restoration in a transboundary waterbody between Hungary and Austria
  - INTERREG-RaabSTAT: http://www.nyuduvizig.hu/index.php/projekt/befejezett-projektek/raabstat
- ***Middle-Tisza Water Management Directorate:***

- LIFE03 ENV/H/000280 Sustainable use and management rehabilitation of flood plain in the Middle Tisza District: LIFE 3.0 - LIFE Project Public Page (europa.eu)

- ***Restoration projects of WWF Hungary:***
  - Liberty Island (szabadsagsziget.hu): *WWF Hungary and Danube Drava National Park Directorate, Lower-Danube-valley Water Directorate*- -STRONG SHOWCASE POTENTIAL
- ***Hortobágy Environmentral Association:***
  - LIFENAT07/H/000324 Sodic lake habitat restoration in Hungary- STRONG SHOWCASE
- ***GWP Hungary***:
  - Hungary: Ecological Restoration and Water System Development in the Protected Site and Floodplain Areas of Szigetköz (#481) - GWP
- ***Some projects included in RESTORE project:*** Run query: Case study query simple - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
  - Habitat and water flow restoration on River Rábca: *North-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate*
  - Improving the structure of the Lahn-patak in Hungary: *West-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate:* LIFE Lapincs projekt (nyuduvizig.hu)
  - Transboundary Management Programme for the planned 5-country Biosphere Reserve “Mura-Drava-Danube” - COOP MDD: coop MDD - Interreg Danube (interreg-danube.eu)
  - Water and Life for Drava and Vuka: Case study: Water and Life for Drava and Vuka - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu)
  - Water is Environmental Pearl (WEP) - SLO-HU ETE 2007-2013: *West-Transdanubian Water Management Directorate:* WEP – Víz a környezet gyöngye (nyuduvizig.hu)

3.14 Ireland

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Ireland has a strong nature-focused culture in tandem with a farming based economy. Traditions are key. Environmentalists worry that since there is plenty of rain and green, climate change is not taken seriously and there is little sense of urgency. Sites that were in excellent status at one time have degraded because they are taken for granted. There is a broader appreciation of catchment science and the impact of a larger landscape, but that tends to make people think that improvements depend on someone else rather than being empowered. Various government agencies and NGOs are working on this and the statutory Water Forum helps focus on the role of various stakeholders and keep them involved.
Literature review	Most studies focused on issues with specific species rather than freshwater restoration, like the pearl mussel work, though they had led to a broader realization of the impact of water quality issues and the need for restoration.
RBMP reviews	The review led to finding the key government programs, philosophies and stakeholders
Internet Searches	This is a very good source for cross checking people
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Identified and connected with 9 key freshwater engineers and government officials and zoomed with most of them. Achieved connections with 11 key stakeholders including the Rivers Trust, whose director participated in the EcoAdvance Launch video for the UNEP Hub.
EcoStat	No
BioEast	Did this lead to finding people & projects? (Country is / is not a member. incl X projects identified; Y people identified)
Project Clusters	While the core clusters did not have many Irish partners, several other Horizon projects had Irish participants who were contacted thru EcoAdvance presentations at the Ecosystems Services Partnership meeting in Greece in 2022.
LIFE programme	The life project Wild Atlantic IP and other life projects are pillars of freshwater restoration in Ireland For the period 2010-2023 there are 2 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Ireland' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	There are several COST actions that include Irish participation and those lists are well organized, cross referenced and easy to use. For the period 2014-present there are 4 projects identified under the search terms 'Ireland' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	5 key projects are identified from prior to 2013 and updated information thru the internet showed that some programs continued including the River Enhancement project. Ireland has 8 project entries in the RiverWiki.

Online consultees	Several Irish stakeholders from key audiences (practitioners and policy makers) registered to be consultees
Personal consultees	Significant zoom conferences and meeting facilitated the development of pilot showcases with will be refined.

Next steps

With 65% of Ireland being farming and 130,000 farms, agricultural runoff and related issues are a central focus of programs. In addition, an old law requiring straightening and dredging of waterways has damaged freshwater ecosystems. New approaches are being pioneered to reduce the negative environmental consequences. Inland fisheries are working to restore connectivity across Ireland and removing barriers that have destroyed habitats. Several meetings with the Water Forum, a Statutory water policy review group and the River Trust, as well as the Irish EPA and Dairy associations have laid the foundations for further consultations. Two pilot showcases were developed focused on two of the most significant freshwater restoration launching pads and will be further refined. Additional consultations were held with long time veterans of freshwater initiatives. These projects will be further investigated and contacted to recruit survey respondents and get further input for the P2S checklist as well as the development of showcases as appropriate.

- Wild Atlantic Nature Life project with pilot on Payment schemes for environmental services
- Rivers Trust (NGO) community Organization
- Agricultural nutrient reduction project
- ASSAP agricultural advice Program
- Environment Agency Research program
- Pearl Mussel Showcase
- Hydromorphology project to change dredging program for improved Catchment Management (Enhanced River)
- Water for Life/Blue Dot program to maintain high quality waters and sites
- Inland Fisheries to promote connectivity
- Dairy Industry program to reduce stream pollution
- Irish River Project to make freshwater visible and procedures transparent
- SLOWaters, an NBS project.

3.15 Israel

Overview of findings from different sources: Israel

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Water has been a core challenge to Israel and water supply a critical national priority. The state owns and allocates all water resources. In 2004 the law was changed to enable water for nature and the Society for the Protection of Nature became a significant NGO to lead campaigns for ecosystem restoration. NGOs have taken polluters and the government to the Supreme Court to establish the rights of natural environments. Shared watersheds suffer from significant wastewater pollution from the surrounding Arab countries Upstream pollution from areas that have no sewage treatment has torpedoed several large projects. Most drinking water is desalinated and wastewater is recycled and reused for irrigation.
Literature review	About half of the articles were useful and some focused on political aspects rather than ecological ones. *S*everal articled yielded collaborations with various scientists and indicated the overall status of freshwater resources. Transboundary water issues are core to freshwater restoration.
RBMP reviews	Israel does not have integrated water resource planning and many different agencies have fragmented responsibilities for land use, environmental policy, wastewater treatment, agricultural effluents and the country's one lake (Kinneret) and few rivers.. A new NGO is developing a strategic plan for the government that is considering the need for WFD-style requirements. . The NGO is developing a private-public partnership to reduce flooding, control runoff, restore freshwater and build capacity and understanding of restoration imperatives and technologies. It organized an annual streams conference to bring together practitioners and researchers with government policy stakeholders to reduce the regulatory fragmentation and recognize key projects and contributors.
Internet Searches	This were helpful, particularly to cross check for information
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Linked in is very popular and over 30 connections were achieved
EcoStat	n/a
BioEast	n/a
Project Clusters	Israelis participate in international projects and several people and projects were found through this route including Merlin related projects.
LIFE programme	n/a not eligible
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Cost program lists are helpful and accounted for several projects and people
ECRR	*n/*a - not represented

Online consultees	Five key stakeholders registered to be consultees and will be recruited for the survey, representing several of our target audiences.
Personal consultees	Developed a network of restoration professionals through AGMA, the freshwater Forum recently created to coordinate government and private sector practitioners to improve freshwater ecosystems and reduce flooding. At their recent Streams conference, distributed 20 surveys and recruited additional contacts for consultation.

Next steps

There are several transboundary projects for restoration of the Jordan River which are currently on hold due to the war but the NGO leading these projects continues extensive activity both scientific and diplomatic to maintain interest in transboundary restoration.

Through AGMA, will continue to recruit individuals and organizations for collaborative efforts and for consultation including:

- EcoPeace Middle East
- National Strategic Plan for integrated water management
- National Parks Authority water for Nature program
- Water Authority water for Nature program
- South Jordan Drainage Authority community freshwater restoration efforts
- Project to add desalinated water to improve Lake Kinneret
- Hula Restoration
- National Restoration Project for Tzipori (Merlin pilot)
- Sustainability and Education Centers in various universities
- Arava Institute research
- Chemical cleanup and restoration from Dead Sea Chemicals
- AGMA Community of Practice
- EcoSystem Services Institute

3.16 Italy

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Italy's water management is divided into several river basins. In Italy, water management is a coordinated effort involving multiple levels of government—central, regional, and local—each with distinct roles and responsibilities. At the central level, the government sets national water legislation, which includes implementing directives such as the WFD and Floods Directive from the EU. The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea oversees these efforts, supported by institutions like the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA), which supervises water services. Some people contacted for interviews were hesitant to give an interview in English since they did not feel comfortable speaking in English.
Literature review	The literature review for Italy was very fruitful with names of individuals and some projects. 171 articles were identified with more than 50 names of individuals and project names.
RBMP reviews	Italy did not list many projects or people in their RBMPs.
Internet Searches	Research institutions, NGOs, and River Basin Organisations were found through internet searches. One contact was established from the Po River District Basin Authority.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Individuals on LinkedIn were initially contacted and showed enthusiasm in response. However, when asked to be a showcase on the EcoAdvance website, they mentioned language barriers as a significant obstacle.
EcoStat	The person was contacted but no response.
BioEast	Italy is not a member of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	No projects suitable for clustering were identified.
LIFE programme	Several projects were identified through the LIFE programme. A total of 874 projects received funding, with 504 of them falling under the environmental category. For the period 2010-2023 there are 30 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Italy' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 16 projects identified under the search terms 'Italy' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Cooperation with ECRR is currently being established, and RiverWiki is utilized to identify projects in Italy. Italy has 40 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Most people contacted through LinkedIn replied positively and registered on the EcoAdvance website.
Personal consultees	No personal consultees.

Next steps

A substantial number of individuals and projects engaged in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems in Germany were successfully identified. The literature review revealed a significant presence of scientists active in the field, while the RBMPs and the LIFE programme provided a comprehensive list of projects. Personal contacts from BOKU facilitated easier communication with individuals, enabling requests for showcases.

Project examples:

- Life+ REWAT (https://www.liferewat.eu/en/):

The General Objective of the REWAT project is to develop a participated strategy for integrated water resources management at sub-catchment level, as a model of governance for sustainable development of the lower Val di Cornia. This demonstration is exportable in other similar contexts at Mediterranean and European scale. Within this project, this strategy - adaptive towards Climate Change - refers to the water budget (re)balancing of the complex system of the lower river Cornia, through a rationalization of (civil and agricultural) water consumption and an increase in intentional groundwater infiltration rates (through river morphological restoration and managed aquifer recharge).

BUT: no direct contact information for individuals. Institutions and partners involved are listed.

- Life Lagoon Refresh (http://www.lifelagoonrefresh.eu/home-en):

The LIFE LAGOON REFRESH project foresees the diversion of a freshwater flow from the Sile River into the lagoon, necessary for recreation of the typical salt gradient of buffer areas between lagoon and mainland, for restoration of the reedbed habitat, and for improvement of the lagoon environment and its biodiversity.

(v) **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up
(vi) Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

3.17 Latvia

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The social and cultural aspects are considered important in Latvia. The policy and funding decisions are made by the following institutions, that are as well organizing the most important implementation projects regarding the water revitalization: • The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia; • The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia; • State Limited Liability Company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre". The fishing NGOs consider removal of dead wood or vegetation from rivers as a restoration measure, that is valid only in some cases like a renaturalisation measure.
Literature review	We used only internet (mainly web pages of the ministries and related links) and personal contacts.
RBMP reviews	Latvia has 4 river basin districts (RBD Daugava; RBD Lielupe; RBD Venta and RBD Gauja), these 4 River Basin Management Plans were published and are available at the website of the Ministry of the Environment and on the website of the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre. We contacted the following stakeholders aiming to define and harmonise public interests in the protection of waters as environmental components, and promote sustainable use of water resources: • The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development: www.varam.gov.lv • Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment - BIOR, Riga, Latvia: https://bior.lv/en • The Ministry of Agriculture: www.zm.gov.lv • Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LVGMC): www.lvgmc.lv • Baltic Environmental Forum, Latvia (BEF): https://www.bef.lv/en/ • Nature Protection Administration: https://latvianature.daba.gov.lv/en/ • Environmental Solutions Institute (ESI): https://www.vri.lv/en/home-2/ • Latvian Nature Foundation (LDF): https://ldf.lv/en … and received only a few responses.
Internet Searches	In Latvia, we used mainly the web pages of the ministries and BEF, LDF, ESI and LVGMC; the 5 important restoration projects were identified.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	No used.
EcoStat	We were in the contact with people from the government, who directly report the state of WFD in Latvia to the EEA, as well as from the private sector (BOSC company).
BioEast	Not relevant

Project Clusters	Not yet
LIFE programme	We identified following important LIFE projects and contacts: LIFE I and LIFEII projects in the Ķemeri National Park. LIFE GoodWater: Implementation of River Basin management of Latvia towards good surface water status
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	We identified following important project and relevant contacts: EU INTERREG BSR programme project "Development, promotion and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination" (RETROUT). For the period 2014-present there are 8 projects identified under the search terms 'Latvia' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Latvia currently has 0 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	The successful on-line consultancy: • Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre • Baltic Environmental Forum, Latvia • BOSC company
Personal consultees	BOSC company (Baltic Open Solutions Center s.r.o.)

Next steps

In the next steps, we will follow the main successful projects and related people to showcase best practices in Latvia, transferable to the similar areas in EU / associated countries:

Construction of the fish pass on Rīva River in Jūrkalnes parish, Ventspils county: construction of natural like fish pass across the remains of old paper mill dam to ensure the access to spawning and rearing grounds upstream this barrier. Coordinated by the RETROUT project. Main contacts: Kurzeme Planning Region: Location - Saldus, Latvia; Web: www.kurzemesregions.lv
Ventspils Regional Municipality; Web: www.ventspilsnovads.lv
BIOR institute - a research centre of national importance which develops innovative research methods and creates new practically applicable knowledge (https://bior.lv/en).

Floodplain restoration of the river Slampe, Lielupe River Basin District: The river flow regime was restored by re-meandering the river thus also restoring the floodplain. LIFE project, main contacts:

- EC LIFE Nature programme, Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, Project manager and land manager - Ķemeri National Park
- Elaboration of technical project, supervision of the CS: river Slampe, Latvia 4 practical implementation - Meliorprojekts Ltd
- Practical implementation of the meandering technical project - Visko Ltd.
- Assessment of ecological status according to benthic macroinvertebrates after the project implementation - Carl Bro Ltd.

LIFE I and LIFEII projects in the Ķemeri National Park: Conservation of wetlands in Ķemeri National Park and Restoring the hydrological regime of Ķemeri National Park**.** The project was implemented by Nature Protection Board Cooperation partners: Environmental Solutions Institute, Latvian Nature Foundation and "ELM MEDIA". The company Hydroplan.

Contact: Nature protection authorities**;** Regional administration of Pieriga "Forest House", Ķemeri, Jurmala, LV-2012; Website: www.daba.gov.lv

The river Norlinarestoration project: it was restored about 11 kilometres long left bank tributary of the river Salaca in Salaca Valley Nature Park and the salmonid migration path there. Main contact: EKOenergy Environment Fund, the project was organized by the Latvian Fund for Nature.

LIFE GoodWater: Implementation of River Basin management of Latvia towards good surface water status: the main aim is to improve the status of water bodies at risk in Latvia by means of the full implementation of the measures laid down in the Daugava, Gauja, Lielupe and Venta River basin management plans. This project is still running (till 2027), thus the experiences will be very important and still “alive”. Main contacts: State Limited Liability Company “Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre”.

3.18 Lithuania

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The central government of Lithuania holds comprehensive responsibilities for water management and sustainability. These responsibilities encompass legislation and regulation for water management, coordination and administration of the River Basin Districts, and the development and approval of RBMPs and their measures. The ministries and bodies responsible for water management at the central level include the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service (LHS), the Lithuanian Geological Survey (LGS), and the Regional Environmental Protection Departments (REPDs). It has been challenging to find individuals willing to give interviews in English.
Literature review	Literature review results for Lithuania were very low. Out of the 17 results, just 4 results were identified as useful.
RBMP reviews	Main projects identified through the RBMPs in Lithuania are being implemented by government bodies (Lithuania Inland Waterways Authority) and financed by the EU, but no concrete people are being mentioned for contacting.
Internet Searches	New water law in 2022, some publications, HELCOM
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Approximately five individuals were contacted through LinkedIn and initially responded positively. However, upon further explanation of EcoAdvance, it became challenging to find individuals willing to participate in interviews.
EcoStat	No response.
BioEast	Two contacts (national contact points) were identified through the BioEast network
Project Clusters	No projects were identified for clustering.
LIFE programme	Several projects were identified through the LIFE programme. 29 projects have been funded, 19 in the category “Nature and Biodiversity”. For the period 2010-2023 there are 5 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Lithuania’ + ‘River Restoration’. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 2 projects identified under the search terms ‘Lithuania’ ‘Water Management’ ‘Biodiversity Preservation’. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Lithuania currently has 0 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	One person contacted through LinkedIn referred to some people and projects in Lithuania for further consultation.
Personal consultee	No personal consultees.

Next steps

Identifying people and projects involved in freshwater ecosystem restoration in Lithuania has been difficult. The literature review yielded limited information on relevant individuals or projects, and European Union funding initiatives, including the LIFE program, appeared relatively modest in comparison to those of other European nations. Nevertheless, within the LIFE program, one project was identified:

- Optimising nature management in Lithuania (PAF-NATURALIT)

In order to optimise the functionality of the Natura 2000 network, Lithuania has elaborated a prioritised action framework (PAF) i.e. a planning tool that aims to integrate financing for the Natura 2000 network into EU financial instruments to 2020. The LIFE-IP PAF-NATURALIT project will focus on implementing the PAF, which covers the entire Natura 2000 network in Lithuania. Meanwhile, demonstration activities will be implemented in selected regions representing different geographical and natural conditions: the emaitija, Dzkija and Auktaitija natural parks, Labanoras regional park and epkeliai nature reserve.

BUT: This project is mainly focusing on biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management. Additionally, contact information for the LIFE Nature national contact points in Lithuania was provided.

A LinkedIn search using keywords such as "Lithuania," "Nature-based solutions," "environment," and "ecosystem" yielded some relevant contact details. This enabled the identification of individuals, and a showcase interview was conducted with a representative from the environmental ministry in Lithuania.

Lithuania Inland Waterways Authority (LIWA) (https://vvkd.lt/en/) provides a list of projects that have or are being implemented by them in Lithuania.

(vii) **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up
(viii) Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

3.19 Luxembourg

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	In Luxembourg, water management responsibilities are divided between the central government and local municipalities. The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure oversees the overall water policy, enforcement of water regulations, coordination of implementation measures, and funding for environmental protection projects. It also establishes administrative entities for water management and coordinates government actions to protect water resources. The ministry plays a key role in national drinking water supply policy, including pricing guidelines and identifying drinking water protection zones, as well as flood risk management initiatives. The Water Management Agency is responsible for monitoring and assessing groundwater and surface waters, conducting pressure and impact analyses, and preparing RBMP.
Literature review	Literature review results for Luxembourg were low. Out of the 27 results, a few people and project names were identified (around 10).
RBMP reviews	Luxembourg did not list projects or people in their RBMPs.
Internet Searches	Internet Searches for People and projects mainly led to ministry websites, research institutions and NGOs involved in restoration projects in Luxembourg with case studies.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	Identifying individuals from Luxembourg involved in freshwater restoration has proven challenging due to the country's small size.
EcoStat	No response.
BioEast	Luxembourg is not a member of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	No projects were identified for clustering.
LIFE programme	26 projects have been funded and 9 projects in the category “Nature and Biodiversity”. For the period 2010-2023 there are 2 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Luxembourg’ + ‘River Restoration’. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Horizon Project “Restore our ocean and waters by 2030”
ECRR	Luxembourg currently has 0 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Contacting individuals directly involved in freshwater ecosystem restoration projects in Luxembourg has been particularly challenging.
Personal consultees	No personal consultees.

Next steps

Luxembourg has only a limited number of freshwater ecosystem restoration projects and people. One of the main projects is the Horizon Europe “Restore our ocean and waters by 2030”:

The mission will be implemented in two phases:

1. ‘development and piloting’ phase (2022-2025), laying the foundations for the implementation of the three mission objectives and enabling actions. Mission ‘lighthouses’ will be launched in the first phase, as sites to pilot, demonstrate and deploy the mission solutions across EU sea and river basins.
2. ‘deployment and upscaling’ phase (2026-2030). The solutions developed and piloted in the first phase to deliver on the mission and the European Green Deal objectives will be further deployed, replicated and scaled up through rounds of open calls for scale up actions.

The contact information is only providing the email address of the National Contact Point at Luxembourg.

Further, through internet searches, some case studies and stakeholders involved in freshwater ecosystem restoration in Luxembourg were identified:

- Bureau d'Etudes Bunusevac Micha: engineering office involved in some restoration projects in Luxembourg (http://nwrm.eu/source/la-nature-mise-en-valeur)
- Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology: research on climate, biodiversity and nature
- City of Luxembourg and Water Management Fonds (https://www.vdl.lu/en/city/projects-and-commitments/urban-development/construction-projects/current-construction-projects/grund-ecological-redevelopment-petrusse-valley#project-overview).
    - **(i)** **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up
    - **(ii)** Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR.

3.20 Malta

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Malta's recent reorganization of its Green parties and shift in power structure shuffled traditional alliances and water allocation and planning concerns. This made it more challenging to persuade those previously involved to be willing to talk. The civil service/professional conventions can allow displacement/sidelining of experts not aligned with the current political leadership, generating some hesitation to be open about previous restoration efforts. In addition to the political factors, as an island, the main focus is on marine and coastal aquifers and desalination as a primary source of drinking water. Malta's recent high voter turnout for the EU elections with no Green representation illustrates the low profile for environmental issues.
Literature review	Little literature on Maltese projects. One of 12 items in the literature search was somewhat relevant but focused on an invasive species (Atlantic blue crab, Callinectes sapidus) rather than a restoration project.
RBMP reviews	This was extremely effective and highlighted the key projects and authors.
Internet Searches	This was an important second step in developing the lists of people and projects. Most projects had some information available on the web and this was an excellent source; 13 people were identified through this route.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	This was a primary route to connecting to people once they were identified as potential contacts. I invited 21 connections, and all accepted my invitations.
EcoStat	Malta did not respond
BioEast	Malta is not a member
Project Clusters	Although there were no specific clusters centred in Malta, some of the people who were researchers or commented on different pubs provided leads.
LIFE programme	This was one of the best sources for projects and people. The IP Life project in Malta has been the central mechanism for projects relating to restoring freshwater ecosystems and related habitats, as a place for disparate entities to talk and synergize their plans.
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	The Interreg Framework offers extensive libraries of fundamental works but many of the reports and projects do not show the names of authors. For the period 2014-present there are 2 projects identified under the search terms 'Malta' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Malta has 2 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Of the 4 consultees who registered for the project, before October 2023, 3 are good consultees based on their long and significant contributions to freshwater restoration research, policy and practice

Next steps

Survey recruitment will reach out to NGOs in Malta and to significant projects including: (note that not all have identified individuals; work in progress)

- Chadwick Lakes Restoration and new management regime:
  - Removal of alien species; infrastructure renovation to store water in dammed areas to facilitate recharge and habitat development.
- IL-BUSKETT Valley watercourse restoration:
  - Forestation and connection treatment technologies, drinking water quality development, water reserve protection,
- Dingli Cliffs restoration/EcoSchools Programs
  - Education for freshwater and environmental awareness and respect
- Revitalization of historic reservoirs to reduce pressure on groundwater
- LIFE and related projects to facilitate long term planning and projects, including Monitoring programs to ascertain status and manage resources
- Pwales MAR to recharge and restore the aquifer
- Inspire Data transition
- Valley Restorations -remove Invasive species and plant indigenous flora
- Net Zero Initiative
- SIGMA Project
- Freshwater crab restoration in GOZO
- BirdLife Malta
- Wied tal-Lunzjata in Gozo- community-led restoration.

3.21 Netherlands

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Rijkswaterstaat and the district water boards are charged with water management in the Netherlands. Among other tasks, they are responsible for ensuring a sufficient supply of water and keeping the country protected against flooding. Provinces and municipalities are also involved in water management. Rijkswaterstaat manages major water bodies such as the sea and rivers in the Netherlands. Their responsibilities include timely alerting of government authorities about floods or stormy seas. RWS maintains dykes, dams, weirs, and storm surge barriers, while also protecting the coast and creating additional space for rivers through activities like deepening floodplains and constructing secondary channels. District water boards oversee regional waters like canals and polder waterways in the Netherlands. They ensure water quality to sustain fish populations and protect against flooding. Additionally, the boards manage water availability for agriculture and are responsible for wastewater purification.
Literature review	The literature review yielded positive results for the Netherlands. From the 101 sources reviewed, numerous individuals and project names were identified, though the exact number is not specified.
RBMP reviews	Some projects were listed by the Netherlands in their River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) as case examples.
Internet Searches	Internet searches yielded various projects (e.g.: Room for the River and LIFE projects).
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	People (around 5) were contacted through LinkedIn and responded positively.
EcoStat	No response.
BioEast	The Netherlands are not a member of the BioEast network.
Project Clusters	The Youth for the Rhine organization engages in clustering activities, including organizing workshops and cross-promotions.
LIFE programme	Some projects were identified through the LIFE programme. In total, 276 projects have been funded and 53 in “Nature & Biodiversity”. For the period 2010-2023 there are 3 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Nederland’ + ‘River Restoration’. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 6 projects identified under the search terms ‘Netherlands’ ‘Water Management’ ‘Biodiversity Preservation’. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Cooperation with ECRR is currently being established, and RiverWiki is utilized to identify projects in the Netherlands. Netherlands has 93 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	LinkedIn provided numerous people, projects and initiatives active in freshwater restoration in the Netherlands.

Personal consultees	BOKU has been working with some people from the Netherlands in previous projects, and the Netherlands are active in river restoration on an European level. Further, BOKU has been working with Youth for the Rhine and will further cluster with this initiative.

Next steps

A substantial number of individuals and projects engaged in the restoration of freshwater ecosystems in the Netherlands were successfully identified. The literature review revealed a significant presence of scientists active in the field, while the RBMPs and the LIFE programme provided a comprehensive list of projects.

LIFE Programme examples:

- Netherlands National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change, to Local Networks Accelerating Climate Resilience (NL-NASCCELERATE)

The objective of the NL-NASCCELERATE integrated project (IP) is to stimulate and accelerate the application of climate change adaptation (CCA) measures by stakeholders (provinces, water authorities, municipalities, industries, the public, etc.). Through demonstrations, pilots, development of best practices, evaluations and incentives for replication, it will speed up implementation of the National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS) 2016. The project will focus on the main sectors where CCA measures are needed: water management, infrastructure, agriculture, nature, health and spatial/urban planning.

The LIFE project also provided direct contact information to individuals.

(ix) EcoAdvance is collaborating with the BioAgora project to organize a workshop in Burghausen, Germany, with co-organization by Youth for the Rhine. Additionally, EcoAdvance is leveraging the Youth for the Rhine network to promote its survey and related initiatives.

(x) Personal contacts proved instrumental in initiating showcases of freshwater restoration activities in the Netherlands. These contacts will also facilitate the organization of additional interviews and provide support for consultations.

(xi) **EcoAdvance survey registrant** – individual personal follow up

(xii) Review and select from the **RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

3.22 Poland

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	In Poland is the water management planning a policy-making activity ensured by the State, aiming to define and harmonise public interests in the protection of waters mainly focused to reduce negative impacts of floods and droughts, and promote sustainable use of water resources. As in other originally socialist states (last century), there have been several inappropriate interventions in the landscape in the past, such as the straightening of streams and amelioration. These activities were reflected in unsustainable water management and needed to be changed within the RBMP, so there were several revitalization projects that were evoked by the social and cultural aspects that persisted from socialist Poland.
Literature review	No. We used the internet and mainly the personal contacts from the WULS: Warsaw University of Life Sciences
RBMP reviews	RBMPs of Poland - very informative and well structured. The territory of Poland is divided into 10 basins, while a separate RBMP is prepared for each. For all 10 RBDs, the following stakeholder groups were actively involved in the development of the RBMPs: agriculture/farmers, consumer groups, energy/hydropower, fisheries/aquaculture, industry, local/regional authorities, navigation/ports, NGOs/nature protection and water supply and sanitation. However it is hard to gain information for projects and persons.
Internet Searches	We searched projects form the different databases (as for example EEA, European Regional Development Fund, REFORM information system or “wiki”) and internet as well the datasets of personal recommendations. We have identified 6 important revitalisation projects; however, we don´t have the information about the person(s) whom led the selected restoration projects.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	LinkedIn
EcoStat	We contacted the ECOSTAT member from Poland and we did not receive any response to our e-mail.
BioEast	Poland is the part of BIOEAST and the coordinator of the BIOEAST up project but is not the member of the Water Thematic Group.
Project Clusters	Not yet
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 14 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Poland’ + ‘River Restoration’. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 9 projects identified under the search terms ‘Poland’ ‘Water Management’ ‘Biodiversity Preservation’. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Poland has 10 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Ministry of Climate and Environment: https://www.gov.pl/web/climate

	• National Water Holding "Polish Waters" / Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne Wody Polskie: https://www.wody.gov.pl/; • Regionalny Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej: https://wodypolskie.bip.gov.pl/regionalne-zarzady-gospodarki-wodnej/regionalne-zarzady-gospodarki-wodnej.html • Ośrodek Usług Inżynierskich STAAND Sp. z o.o.: https://staand.com.pl/index.htm; • WULS Warsaw University of Life Sciences: https://www.sggw.edu.pl/en/ We communicated with the responsible persons via e-mail but without any response.
Personal consultees	WULS Warsaw University of Life Sciences.

Next steps

We will consult and discuss with several responsible organizations/people who can be role models --reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe focusing on the Polish "success stories" (by email/phone or personally). We selected the cases, which have showcase potential and some of them are the strong showcase projects. We identified main successful projects to be contacted:

- Reda River: Construction of the planned fish pass: organised under the RETROUP project, the main contact: National Water Holding "Polish Waters"
- Protection of natural spawning of salmon and sea trout– the Słupia river: restoration of the 2,4 km section of the Kwacza river.
- Regionalny Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej w Krakowie
- Restoring Biała Tarnowska to nature and people: all the stages of the project were implemented under the Operational Program Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020. The main contact: Ośrodek Usług Inżynierskich STAAND Sp. z o.o.
- REFORM project - River Warta – Poland, Flagship restoration measure: the main contact: WULS Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- Narew river restoration project: oriented on the creation of the buffer zone of Narew National Park (NPN). Developer under the various donors, the main contact: the Narew National Park.

We will use our personal contacts as well from the Universities (Warshaw and Wroclaw).

3.23 Portugal

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The definition of water policy in Portugal was strongly influenced by the role of water resources in the economic and social development of the country in several sectors. Its evolution is similar to many other policies, as decision-making mechanisms were developed to take into account an increasingly wider range of public and private bodies, both central and regional, connected to the offer and demand for water. The institutional design was thus continuously shaped and defined by those same goals. Portugal's entry into the European Union gave a new incentive to water policy, more focused on the sustainable and integrated use of water resources. New challenges for the integrated management of water resources were taken on by public administration bodies in Portugal and the revitalization of the freshwaters between them.
Literature review	Searching for future, known or ongoing revitalization projects on waterways in Portugal is quite difficult. These water management measures are quite exceptional in Portugal. It is also difficult to find the details of ongoing projects and the contacts.
RBMP reviews	The RBMPs are developed by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA). The plans are developed through a collaborative process that involves various stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, NGOs, and the public. We consulted following organizations: • Ministerio de Ambiente e Acao Climatica (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action - Portugal): https://www.cleanenergywire.org/experts/ministry-environment-and-climate-action-portugal • Portuguese Environment Agency: https://apambiente.pt/en/apa/portuguese-environment-agency-apa • Universidade de Lisboa: https://www.ulisboa.pt/ • The Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia–FCT): https://www.fct.pt/
Internet Searches	We searched projects form the various internet sources with main source of the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA).
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	LinkedIn
EcoStat	No country response.
BioEast	Not a member.
Project Clusters	None identified.
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 8 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Portugal' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	For the period 2014-present there are 4 projects identified under the search terms 'Portugal' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects

ECRR	Portugal has 7 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	We consulted with following institutions: • Ministerio de Ambiente e Acao Climatica (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action - Portugal): https://www.cleanenergywire.org/experts/ministry-environment-and-climate-action-portugal • Portuguese Environment Agency: https://apambiente.pt/en/apa/portuguese-environment-agency-apa • Universidade de Lisboa: https://www.ulisboa.pt/ • The Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia–FCT): https://www.fct.pt/ We identified only 1 collaborating contact till now: Caterina Anastasia from the University of Lisboa (caterinaanastasia@fa.ulisboa.pt)
Personal consultees	On-line conference with Caterina Anastasia from the University of Lisboa.

Next steps

We will consult and discuss with several responsible organizations/people who can be role models --reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe focusing on the Portugal “success stories” (by email/phone or personally). We selected the cases, which have showcase potential:

- Tamera water retention landscape to restore the water cycle and reduce vulnerability to droughts - Alentejo was organised like the case study of the Clima ADAPT Programme.
- Urban Regeneration Projects Bound to Water, along and towards the Tagus Estuary: Research project, under the management of the Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia–FCT), under the individual postdoctoral grant.

3.24 Romania

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	There is a strong hierarchical decision-making system in the public administration, professional decisions, public statements need official permission of the responsible leaders (minister, director etc.). There are NGO's (e.g. WWF Romania), who are actively involved and carry out restoration projects.
Literature review	Most of the articles delt with flood risk management and sediment transport, erosion, some of them related to species or marsh vegetation conservation, landscape connectivity, wetlands restoration. 2 are relevant from 63 papers: 1 scientific paper aims a comparative assessment of multiple NBSs, based on the analysis of benefits and co-benefits produced, as well as the identification of trade-offs among different stakeholders (e.g. the increase of agricultural production versus biodiversity conservation) and potential side effects (Coletta et. al. 2021). 1 article presents a solution for reinstating the natural hydrological functions of a floodplain by restoring an old, abandoned water flow route and extending the floodplain's wetlands (Vlad et. al, 2017).
RBMP reviews	In the period 2016 to 2018 established that *most of the measures (60%) are being implemented, two supplementary measures regarding natural water retention have been planned and are due to be implemented until 2027: Restoration of wetlands and restoration of river flood plains and will be financed through EU funds (under the Romanian Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020)*
Internet Searches	ResearchGate: *Ioana-Toroimac, G. and Zaharia, L. (2016),* 14 projects identified
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	contacted with searching-cross-checking 9 people, they follow EcoAdv project
EcoStat	• contacted with ECOSTAT members, completed the ECOSTAT questionnaire • 4 people and 2 projects identified
BioEast	The BioEastFresh Water group is not active at the moment. We contacted with the DALIA Mission project for the future collaboration.
Project Clusters	SELINA project: 2 persons and clustering actions
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 3 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Romania' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	• DANUBE FLOODPLAIN: Reducing the flood risk through floodplain restoration along the Danube River and tributaries/potential showcase for international project: 1 project and 1 people • SEE River project: 2 people For the period 2014-present there are 7 projects identified under the search terms 'Romania' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects

ECRR	6 projects, which related for freshwater restoration (river, lake) and 2 persons Romania has 14 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	• Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests: contacted 2 persons, 2 persons suggested • National Administration Romanian Waters: contacted 3 persons, 2 projects suggested • WWF Romania: contacted 2 persons, suggested 2 projects • University of Bucharest: contacted 2 scientific experts
Personal consultees	• SELINA project: contacted 2 persons, they follow EcoAdv on LinkedIn • National Administration Romanian Waters- Apele Romane: information for restoration projects and people from 1 person • WWF Romania: active contact with 1 person

Next steps

The restoration measures funded by EU projects have a basin wide context (Danube Floodplain project, SEE Rivers project), the national restoration projects were collected mainly in RESTORE projects or some restoration activities have a local importance implemented by WWF Romania.

We discussed more responsible organizations (Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests; Biodiversity Directorate of Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests; National Administration Romanian Waters; National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management; International Association of Danube Research; WWF Romania) people more times by email and by LinkedIn. We received information about restoration projects in Romania from the ECOSTAT questionnaire on 12.06.2023. We found an research as case study in freshwater restoration topic ((PDF) Hydromorphological priorities of river restoration projects in Romania (researchgate.net) *and the RESTORE project, which collect some restoration project for rivers and lakes in Romania as well:* Run query: Case study query simple - RESTORE (restorerivers.eu).

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- *DANUBE FLOODPLAIN: Reducing the flood risk through floodplain restoration along the Danube River and tributaries (e.g. Danube Floodplain - https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danube-floodplain),*
- *SEE RIVERS project:* Project SEE River (see-river.net),
- *WWF Romania:*
  - Împreună pentru Dunăre | WWF Romania
  - Lucrările de reconstrucție ecologică din Mahmudia, model pentru dezvoltarea durabilă a luncii Dunării | WWF Romania
- *RESTORE project:*
  - ERCIP - European River Corridor Improvement Plans,
  - Ecological Restoration of Mata-Radeanu Complex,
  - Ecological Restoration of Natural Lake Pochina,
  - Ecological Restoration of Vlascuta Lake,

- The Cernovca Restoration Project,
- The Fortuna Restoration Project.

Lower Danube River Administration (AFDJ)– decision-maker; https://www.afdj.ro/ro

The Autonomous Authority "Lower Danube River Administration" Galati, is the Romanian legal entity and operates as an autonomous authority under the authority of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. AFDJ Galati performs the function of waterway authority on the Romanian sector of the Danube from the entrance into the country at km 1,075 to the exit into the Black Sea, on the Sulina arm, on the navigable arms of the Danube, Borcea, Bala, Macin, Valciu, Caleia, on the Chilia arm with the secondary arms, on the Sfantul Gheorghe arm with the rectification channels and the secondary arms of the Sulina Canal, called the Old Danube. Taking into account the specifics of AFDJ's activity, the collaboration with the fresh Water revitalisation projects materializes through:

- collaboration in activities related to the maintenance of the navigable channel by exchanging parameters for sediments in the intervention areas
- studies on the impact of dredging activity on the quality of surface aquatic ecosystems, especially at the level of biota
- exchange of information and good practices for bathymetric monitoring activities with determinations of the hydrodynamics of the action areas.

List of potential Romanian stakeholders with the showcases potential:

- Administration of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- Romanian Waters Agency
- Galati Environmental Protection Agency
- Tulcea Environmental Protection Agency
- Galati Environmental Guard
- Association for Cross border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion"
- Global Water Partnership - Central and Eastern Europe (GWP-CEE)
- Galati County School Inspectorate
- River Administration of the Lower Danube (AFDJ)
- Tulcea Danube Delta National Research-Development Institute (INCDDD)
- Research and Development Institute for Aquatic Ecology, Fishing and Aquaculture – Galati (ICDEAPA).

3.25 Slovakia

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	In Slovakia is the water management planning a policy-making activity ensured by the State, aiming to define and harmonise public interests in the protection of waters. As in other originally socialist states (last century), there have been several inappropriate interventions in the landscape in the past, such as the straightening of streams and amelioration. as for example regulation of the Drázus stream in Rožňava in the 1960s. The arrangement in the inner city is there extremely insensitive and unesthetic. The Rožňave river has been transformed into a concrete channel devoid of any life or natural beauty. As a result of this modification, the river in the city not only does not provide an adequate city-forming function, but also the necessary ecosystem services. These activities are needed to be changed within the RBMP, so there were several revitalization projects in Slovakia, that were evoked by the social and cultural aspects from the past.
Literature review	The review was rather general, rather than specific for restoration. Most of the restorations were implemented by the public administration or water Management Bodies and were not published in scientific papers. We used the internet and mainly the personal contacts.
RBMP reviews	Slovakia has 2 River Basins. The aim of the RBMP now there is to transpose the identified solutions of the new Water Policy Concept (2021-2030 with a view to 2050) integrated through the cooperation of public authorities and stakeholders and to connect (sometimes) conflicting interests within the framework of the use of ecosystem services, towards watershed management in pilot integrated sub-watersheds. The proposed actions include expertise in several scientific disciplines such as hydrology, hydraulics, morphology, biology, water quality and engineering. For all selected realized revitalization projects or activities contacts are available for decision-makers, or even project companies. It is therefore possible to contact them and obtain the necessary additional information.
Internet Searches	We searched projects form the personal sources and the database of the Slovak Water Institute Organisation.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	No used
EcoStat	We did not contact EcoStat members, only EEA members.
BioEast	Slovakia is the part of BIOEAST initiative but is not a member of the Water Thematic Group.
Project Clusters	DALIA project
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 7 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms ‘Slovakia’ + ‘River Restoration’. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	In Slovakia, 3 important restoration projects were identified. In general, Ministry of Environment; Slovakia and Nadácia Ekopolis manage these projects. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects

ECRR	Slovakia has 4 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	Municipal Office in Trnava
Personal consultees	Two contacts

Next steps

In the next steps, we will contact the restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- Revitalization of the lower basin and biocorridor Parná – Medziháj: The aim of the project was to solve the issue of the ecology of the river course and the entire river area in the territory of six municipalities belonging to the local area of Trnava. The main contact: Municipal office in Trnava
- Revitalization of the lower course of the Rudava river: the first watercourse that was restored to its original shape after previous technical modification. The revitalization of the 2.2-kilometer-long section in Záhorí was carried out by the Bratislava Regional and Conservation Association (BROZ) and financed by the Ministry of the Environment, Plan for recovery and resilience of the Slovak Republic.
- Revitalization of the bed and banks of the Drázus river in Rožňava: main contacts: Ministry of the Environment Slovakia.

We will keep in touch with the Výzkumný ústav vodného hospodárstva VUVH (Water Management Institute Slovakia), who is organising the activities related to the initiative "From Iron Gates to Gabčíkovo Water Structure" focused on knowledge transfer on fish migration restoration. Organisation of the LIFE project Living Rivers (101069837/LIFE21-IPE-SK-Living Rivers). Investigation and technical design of fish passes suitable for the Iron Gate and the possibility of their application at the Gabčíkovo Water Structure.

3.26 Slovenia

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	Slovenia is a water-rich country, with many rivers and abundant aquifers. At the same time, rough topography and dispersed rural settlements have had a large impact on the development of water supply and treatment services. Water regulation is set by central government agencies. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for water policy, regulatory monitoring, and financing of water investments. The Slovenian Environment Agency is charged with allocating water abstraction rights via permits, monitoring water quality and quantity, and collecting water use/pollution levies. Furthermore, the Slovenian Water Agency and the Slovenian Environment Agency are in charge of allocating water abstraction rights via permits, monitoring water quality and quantity, and collecting water use fees. Environmental tax for wastewater is collected for municipalities by the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia. There is strong interest in the water related issues and use of the NBS at the University of Ljubljana and there are some of the private SMEs implementing the freshwater revitalization projects (as GEOKO, LIMNOS).
Literature review	The review was rather general, rather than specific for restoration. Most of the restorations were implemented the public administration or water Management Bodies and were not published in scientific papers. We used the internet and mainly the personal contacts via GEOKO and LIMNOS.
RBMP reviews	Slovenia is divided into two River Basin Districts (RBDs): Danube and Adriatic. To search for projects, we used contacts from the sphere of ministries, i.e. people who directly report the state of WFD in Slovenia to the EEA, as well as from the private sector and universities, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.
Internet Searches	In Slovenia, 3 important restoration projects were identified via internet (web pages of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy and cordis.eu).
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	We did not used the social media
EcoStat	We were in the contact with people from the government, who directly report the state of WFD in Slovenia to the EEA, as well as from the private sector and universities.
BioEast	The contact for BIOEAST in Slovenia; he is not directly involved in the water related issues and not participating in the Thematic Group of Fresh water.
Project Clusters	Not, yet
LIFE programme	1 LIFE project was identified: Stržen. 1. 9. 2017 to 31. 8. 2022. In the scope of the project, the channel was filled up to restore the original meandering. The channel has been dug with the goal of cutting off the flow of water to the natural course of Stržen (Notranjski regijski park).

	For the period 2010-2023 there are 2 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Slovenia' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Interreg MED WETNET project – memorandum on participation in Wetland Conservation in Ljubljana Barje Nature Park. The H2020 project NAIAD with pilot site in Slovenia (http://naiad2020.eu/about-naiad/naiad-partners/). These 2 projects were found, no contact person's name identified, but description about projects is available in RiverWiki. For the period 2014-present there are 10 projects identified under the search terms 'Slovenia' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Slovenia has 19 project entries in the RiverWiki.
Online consultees	The people are not active in consultation, some reply by the LIMNOS and GEOKO companies.
Personal consultees	YES: Two

Next steps

We will consult and discuss with several responsible organizations/people who can be role models --reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe focusing on the Slovenian "success stories" (by email/phone or personally). We identified some successful projects to be contacted (most of the projects aim to create or improve wetlands, lagoons, with additional effect on the surrounding rivers and lakes. Constructed wetlands and the other NBS are used to protect the national parks area / buffer zone in the contact with agriculture and to manage the tourism and recreation).

Restoration projects, which has showcase potential:

- Stržen LIFE (the project duration: 1. 9. 2017 to 31. 8. 2022). The Stržen LIFE project intervention restored the riverbed into its original double meander. Stržen watercourse was extended by 1,5 km and thanks for this, the water will remain in the area for longer periods of time. The renaturation is contributing to a more effective natural water purification and and support the biodiversity (survival of water-related organisms, such as crustaceans, fish, amphibians, birds, as well as aquatic and riparian plants, during dry season). As the sub-goal of the project, a part of Cerknica Lake was restored to the state it was in before human intervention. The second objective of the project: reducing of the visitor´s pressure to the most sensitive areas. The third objective was to improve the habitat of the bittern. https://life.notranjski-park.si/en/project-objectives/

- Glinščica catchment restoration – part of the H2020 project NAIAD. Funding: H2020 (http://naiad2020.eu/about-naiad/naiad-partners/); contacts: Iskriva, Institute for Development of Local Potentials (info@iskriva.net) REVIVO non-profit NGO (revivo@ozivimo.si). Creation of new sedimentation pond and creation of 70m long ecoremediation system for water treatment. Contact: Limnos d.o.o.

- PoLJUBA project – main aim is to restore and maintain wetlands in Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park. The overall objective of the project is to establish, improve and maintain a favourable state of habitat types and species; financed by ERDF – European regional development fund.
- Middle Warta River Valley project: This restoration project was implemented as compensation to loss of ecologically important part of Middle Warta River Valley (Natura2000 site) due to construction of the A2 motorway. No direct contact is known.

3.27 Spain

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The social and cultural factors played very important role in the water management over Spain. Although due to peculiar characteristics and historical background, the use of resources and the increase of its availability have traditionally prevailed over environmental protection, from the end of the 20th century, with the entry into force of the Water Framework Directive, Spanish hydrological planning prioritizes the achievement of the good status of water bodies. Compliance with requirements and established terms has finally been achieved, thanks to the great efforts of civil servants from diverse Public Administrations, technicians from consulting companies, as well as the users, non-governmental organisations, professional associations and society in general.
Literature review	The review was rather general, rather than specific for restoration. Most of the restorations were implemented the public administration or water Management Bodies and were not published in scientific papers.
RBMP reviews	In general, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) and the National river basin authorities & river basin administration of the Autonomous Communities manage the projects.
Internet Searches	We searched projects form different sources as for example the LIFE project database, different Newsletters (as for example EURAQUA), database del MITECO, RESTORE database. Except the RESTORE project we have no information about the person who led these projects.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	LinkedIn
EcoStat	We were in the contact with people from the government, who directly report the state of WFD in Spain to the EEA, as well as from the private sector and universities. However, the responses were very limited, till now.
BioEast	Not relevant
Project Clusters	Not
LIFE programme	1 project (Demolition of the dam, San Martín) and 1 contact person identified For the period 2010-2023 there are 29 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Spain' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Many implementation projects of the MITECO and related Municipalities identified, from them we selected 5 representative projects. For the period 2014-present there are 18 projects identified under the search terms 'Spain' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. https://www.interregeurope.eu/search-approved-projects
ECRR	Iberian Centre for River Restoration (Centro Iberico de Restauracion Fluvial) - NC IBERIA Spain has 105 project entries in the RiverWiki.

Online consultees	• EEA database • University of Cartagena (for Murcia area)
Personal consultees	University of Cartagena: Juan García Bermejo

Next steps

We will consult and discuss with several responsible organizations/people who can be role models --reflecting the restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Europe focusing on the Spanish "success stories" (by email/phone or personally). We selected the cases, which have showcase potential:

- **Ecological Restoration of Monreal Springs (Teruel):** recovery of the wetland habitats and ecological functioning of the groundwater discharge system formed by 50 springs, recovery of its connectivity with the Jiloca River. It was the initiative of the Municipality of Monreal (owners of most of the area of the wetland) to go ahead with the improvement of the environmental conditions of this wetland as it is very much appreciated for recreation by local people. The goals were proposed by the scientific team and finally designed after Municipality and stakeholders' participation. Planning and works were taken by the Municipality in agreement with the sponsor (MITECO). Main contact: The municipality Monreal; Centro de Iniciativas-Sociedad; Municipal Los Ojos de Monreal.

- **La Carrasquilla riverbed environmental improvement project**: the Carrasquilla riverbed restoration project aims at improving of the riverbed ecological conditions, currently degraded due mainly to heavy human intervention, to achieve the goals of the National River Restoration Strategy. Supported by MITECO; organized by the AYESA company. Main contacts: Concejalía de Descentralización del Ayuntamiento de Cartagena, Instituto Municipal de Servicios del Litoral del Ayuntamiento de Cartagena, MITECO - Comisaría de Aguas. Confederación Hidrográfica del Segura del Área de Gestión Medioambiental e Hidrología.

- **Perea riverbed environmental improvement project**: the project aims at improving the ecological condition of this river section, regulating public use in the area of Fuente Caputa to make it compatible with the natural value of its surroundings, restoring the vegetation on the margins of the river, degraded mainly because of the heavy environmental stress caused by cattle in the area, and enhancing cultural heritage through restoration and musealization of the old Roman dam. Achievement of achieve the goals of the National River Restoration Strategy. Contacts: Ayuntamiento de Mula; Parque Regional de Sierra Espuña; MITECO - Comisaría de Aguas. Confederación Hidrográfica del Segura.

- **Taibillia river environmental improvement project**: the project aims at improving the ecological condition of this river stretch, recovering the vegetation on its banks where it is scarce or reduced to a few forest areas, and fostering its natural and landscape attributes to

make them compatible with a regulated and responsible public use. Achievement of achieve the goals of the National River Restoration Strategy. Supported by MITECO; organized by the AYESA company. Main contacts: MITECO, Ayuntamiento de Nerpio; Parque Cultural de Nerpio y Peña "El Pijo".

- **Demolition of the dam, San Martín:** the demolition of the San Martín or Bera Dam, 2.85 m high and 102.84 meters long on the Bidasoa River. LIFE, RESTORE. Main contact: Servicio de Biodiversidad. Departamento de Desarrollo Rural y Medio Ambiente de Navarra.

- **Environmental restoration of the Riopudos stream in Sevilla:** aimed to improve the natural value of the Riopudio stream and its surroundings, to constitute an environmental reference in articulating the region of Aljarafe, promoting its public use by citizens. Contacts: Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation. MITECO.

3.28 Sweden

Overview of findings from different sources

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The Swedish approach to restoration focuses around government and EU funded projects. Details can be found openly online. Many rivers were affected by logging practices until the mid-1970's and are now being returned to a more natural state.
Literature review	The review identified 64 publications of which ~19% (12) were found to be directly relevant, 16% (10) partially relevant and the rest 65% (42) not appropriate for our goals.
RBMP reviews	The RBMPs do not lead directly to people and projects, but government websites do.
Internet Searches	Searches identify the significant role that County Administrative Boards play in restoration projects (whilst the government overseas the strategic national approach).
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	People identified / registered through the EcoAdvance social media programme will be contacted.
EcoStat	No response from the country representative.
BioEast	Not applicable – Sweden is not a member of this group.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for Sweden (although European networks and projects are represented in Sweden and will be consulted via those routes).
LIFE programme	For the period 2010-2023 there are 9 LIFE funded projects identified under the search terms 'Sverige' + 'River Restoration'. https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search/advanced
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Interreg projects are active here – in particular the RETROUT project. For the period 2014-present there are 8 projects identified under the search terms 'Sweden' 'Water Management' 'Biodiversity Preservation'. Perhaps ½ of these are relevant to EcoAdvance.
ECRR	The RiverWiki contains 21 entries from Sweden – roughly 2% of the entries.
Online consultees	The EcoAdvance online survey – promoted through the EcoAdvance social media posts – has 1 registrant from Sweden.
Personal consultees	Personal contact by CER provides a direct link to SYKE restoration experts.

Next steps

Next step actions for survey and consultation will comprise:

(1) Work through online contacts: personal follow up with contacts identified online as part of the RBMP review process

(2) **EcoAdvance survey & social media registrants** – personal follow up

(3) Review and select from the **21 RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR

(4) **LIFE Projects**: Review and select contacts from the 9+8 LIFE and Interreg projects identified in Sweden.

3.29 UK

Overview of findings from different sources

Noting that the UK reflects England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:
England & Wales: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency
Scotland: https://www.sepa.org.uk/
Northern Ireland: https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/rivers-conservation
and all 4 countries refer to the River Restoration Centre: https://www.therrc.co.uk/

Country name	Position Summary
Social and cultural factors	The UK is quite open regarding publishing such information and details of many projects, programmes, groups etc. can be found online.
Literature review	The review identified 272 publications of which ~17% (46) were found to be directly relevant, 13% (36) partially relevant and the rest 70% (190) not appropriate for our goals. This provides a good source of author contacts to follow up on.
RBMP reviews	The RBMP reviews did list some example restoration projects, which in turn highlighted the role of catchment partnerships, including various charities, NGOs etc. The route to find people and projects is clearly via the Catchment Partnership Teams.
Internet Searches	The internet searches were quite effective at finding people and projects, in particular developing from the catchment partnerships identified through the RBMP reviews. In addition, the River Restoration Centre (RRC) is clearly identified as a primary centre of knowledge and good practice for the UK.
LinkedIn and Other Social Media	People identified / registered through the EcoAdvance social media programme will be contacted.
EcoStat	Not applicable.
BioEast	Not applicable.
Project Clusters	No cluster projects identified for the UK.
LIFE programme	The most relevant LIFE project identified here was RESTORE in which the River Restoration Centre (RRC) participated and lead to the creation of the European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR). Now in dialogue with both. The RRC has prize winning projects for the last 10 years (+ runner up projects)
Interreg / Framework / Other European Programmes	Not yet searched.
ECRR	The RiverWiki contains 869 entries from the UK – over half of all entries. This provides a massive database of project examples.
Online consultees	The original EcoAdvance online survey – promoted through the EcoAdvance social media posts – has 3 registrants from the UK.
Personal consultees	Personal connections with the Environment Agency has identified a key initiative to develop a new restoration assessment framework for use within the Agency (England & Wales).

Next steps

The overall review process has identified a rich source of potential people and projects to consult.

Initial email enquiries to ~20 different organisations spread across catchment partnerships, demonstrated a low level of response to requests for survey participation, even when requests were repeated. Instead, individual personal contact is needed to even gain an initial response. Messaging via LinkedIn tended to garner a slightly better response.

The approach for identifying consultees and potential showcases therefore necessitates a different approach comprising one or more of:

- Personal contact and individual follow up
- People & Projects already highlighted via the RRC awards programme
- People & Projects forming part of the ECRR RiverWiki

Actions will therefore comprise the following next steps:

(1) **Environment Agency**. Developing a new assessment framework for the Environment Agency).

(2) **3 EcoAdvance survey registrants** – individual personal follow up.

(3) **Social media registrants** – individual contact to encourage survey participation

(4) **The RRC identifies 'River Champions'** each year; people who have made significant contributions to improving rivers. Details of the prize winners are published on their website: https://www.therrc.co.uk/2024-river-champions-0 each year going back to 2017. This provides a list of over 50 people with direct experience, recommended by their peers for their work.
To be reviewed and invited to respond to the EcoAdvance survey as appropriate.

(5) **Review and select from the 869 RiverWiki entries**, working via the ECRR. The RRC collaborates with the ECRR in maintaining the RiverWiki. This online database records details of different restoration projects. The UK has 869 entries – a very large number. These will be reviewed, and a selection identified for follow up and closer assessment.

4 Some Additional Sources of Information

As part of the search for information and potential sources of cooperation we also gained very valuable contacts with international organizations that manage successful river restoration projects, and we have also obtained a promise of cooperation from some countries outside the EU, such as Serbia. These contacts are summarised below.

4.1 Serbia

The following organisations offer starting points for consultation in Serbia:

Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine"

The PWMC "Vode Vojvodine" is responsible for governing all activities in the Nature Park Begecka Jama and the drainage system Begec-Glozan. Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 25, 21101 Novi Sad, Serbia, office@vodevojvodine.rs

Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine" was established by the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina through a provincial assembly decision to form a public company for water management on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. PWMC "Vode Vojvodine" are the governing body of the protected area Nature Park Begecka Jama. PWMC "Vode Vojvodine" are obliged to: Protect the protected area and implement the prescribed protection regimes; Enhance and promote the protected area; Ensure the uninterrupted flow of natural processes and the sustainable use of the protected area; Keep records of natural values and submit data to the Provincial Institute for Nature Protection; Keep records of human activities, practices, and processes that pose a threat and damage to the protected area and submit data to the Provincial Institute for Nature Protection and the ministry responsible for environmental protection; etc. The PWMC "Vode Vojvodine" has a very high interest in the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and freshwater revitalisation activities.

"Gloakvalis" DOO. "Gloakvalis" DOO is a utility company, mostly dealing with water supply, waste, and wastewater management in the village of Glozan. It is located in the municipality of Bački Petrovac, in the town of Gložan and is responsible for operating the wastewater treatment facility – Constructed Wetland System in the the Nature Park Begecka Jama.

Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province. The Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province is the main institution responsible for monitoring and protecting all ecosystems in the Vojvodina region. Address: Radnička 20a, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia, E-mail: info@pzzp.rs, Web: www.pzzp.rs

4.2 International organisations

The following international organisations were also identified (some of which are already identified within the D2.1 report and D4.3 CDE plan):

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) - a transnational organization that was established for the fulfilment of the "Convention for the Protection of the Danube River". The ICPDR is nominally composed of delegations from all Contracting Parties to the Danube River Protection Convention, but also provides a framework for other organizations to join. The key objectives of the ICPDR management plan that the Danube must achieve: 1. A cleaner Danube: reducing pollution in localities, industry, and agriculture; 2. A healthier Danube: protecting rivers as ecosystems that provide living environments for aquatic animals and plants, as well as services for people (drinking water and recreation); 3. A safer Danube: ensuring a safe environment for people to live without fear of major flood damage.

Water Information System for Europe (WISE) – decisionmaker**:** WISE-Freshwater provides information and data on the state of Europe's rivers, lakes and groundwater, as well as the pressures affecting them and the actions and protection of the aquatic environment. This system called Water Information System for Europe (WISE) was created by the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and Eurostat, together with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The main aim of WISE is to support the European Union's water resources policy by providing comprehensive and accessible information on water in Europe. WISE contributes to the development of strategies and tools for better water management, which can be replicated over other European rivers and basins.

The Central Dredging Association, CEDA: freshwater revitalization projects manager**;** implementation of the NBS (artificial wetlands)**. web:** https://www.dredging.org/ CEDA, is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental, professional society. It provides a forum for all those involved in dredging-related activities who live or work in Europe, Africa or the Middle East. CEDA provides high-quality expert knowledge on all aspects of dredging, including best technical and environmental practices. Produces guidance documents, position papers and technical reports. It serves as an independent forum where professionals from various sectors (government, academia, business) can connect, share ideas, and collaborate on projects. CEDA promotes education and continuing professional development through workshops, conferences, webinars, and CEDA flagship dredging days. It provides expert advice to governments and international regulatory bodies, influencing policies related to dredging and maritime construction. CEDA encourages innovation by supporting research initiatives and projects aimed at promoting dredging technologies and methodologies.

EcoAdvance has identified a series of projects with which we are starting the clustering activities, through the exchange of information and solutions. With a number of these projects, we have already established contacts and are collaborating or are going to establish, such as:

- **DALIA -** Danube Region Water Lighthouse Action: https://dalia-danube.eu/
- **Restore4Life** - Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin**,** https://restore4life.eu/
- **EcoDaLLi -** ECOsystem-based governance with DAnube lighthouse Living Lab for sustainable Innovation processes, https://ecodalli.eu/index.html;

- **DaWetRest** - Danube Wetlands and flood plains Restoration through systemic, community engaged and sustainable innovative actions, https://dawetrest.eu;
- **Danube4All -** Restoration of the Danube River Basin for ecosystems and people from mountains to coast, https://www.danube4allproject.eu;
- **Sundanse** - Innovative sediment management framework for a SUstainNable DANube black SEa system – a new project, that will be implemented between June 2024 – June 2028.
- **EUROLakes** (IntEgrated protection and Restoration apprOaches for natUral Lake EcoSystems); starting September 2024; https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101157482
- **FERRO** (Fostering European Lakes Restoration By Nutrient Removal, Recovery, And Reuse: Integrated Catchment And In-Lake Scale Approach). Started on 1.6.2024; https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101157743

The collaboration of the EcoAdvance with the BIOEAST Initiative has also enabled EcoAdvance Partners to connect with policymakers, scientific experts, and stakeholders across the Central and Eastern European region and finally to reach the **DALIA project**.

The clustering activities between the EcoAdvance and DALIA projects are proving to be highly fruitful, fostering an environment of collaborative learning. Participation in workshops and webinars has helped enhance our understanding of citizen engagement, stakeholder involvement, and impactful strategies within the context of Mission Ocean. Looking forward, we will focus on amplifying our impact through direct collaboration to strengthen stakeholder engagement and expand our networks. The sustainability of our collaboration is assured through our shared vision, complementary expertise, and commitment to open communication.

5 Conclusions and Next Steps

This report presents an overview of the EcoAdvance team reviews which were focussed around the identification of relevant people and projects that may be contacted to participate in surveys, interviews and potentially the development of showcasing materials.

Since the availability and nature of information varied from country to country, a summary table for each country is presented, allowing a quick assessment of the review findings per country. Following the summary table, a concise list of 'next step actions' is provided, which the EcoAdvance partners will endeavour to undertake during the second project work period.