LIFE Platform Meeting

ONE RIVER-MANY INTERESTS 27-28th June 2017, KOBLENZ, GERMANY

Summary Report (July 2017)

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1. Introduction

The 2017 Water Platform Meeting 'ONE RIVER-MANY INTERESTS' was held in Koblenz, in Germany on the 27th and 28th of June 2017 within the frame of the first German Integrated Project (IP) co-financed by the LIFE programme: *LIFE14 IPE/DE/022 - Living River Lahn*. The purpose of the platform meeting was to examine several aspects and problems of different water uses of rivers, focusing on river restoration and to discuss some of the potential solutions and experiences developed by LIFE projects and by international organizations.

The event was hosted by the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG) and the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (HMUKLV) under the auspices of the LIFE 14 Integrated Project LIFE14 IPE/DE/022 - Living River Lahn. The BfG is the scientific Federal Institute for consultancy, evaluation and research in the fields of hydrology, water resources management, ecology and water conservation of the major rivers, canals and coastal waters. It provides scientific services in close interaction with practitioners from the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) and further players at the federal government and federal state level. The BfG is part of the European Research Infrastructure DANUBIUS dealing with river sea systems and serves the international community by operating the UNESCO Centre for Water Resources and Global Change.

The location was demonstrative as with respect to the river Lahn, a small river joining the Rhine just a few kilometres upstream, restoration is made complicated by the fact that half of its stretch is a federal waterway. This river is at the heart of the Life IP project *LiLa Living Lahn*. However, freight traffic on the river Lahn stopped in the 1980-ies. Since the 1970s, the Lahn has seen a steadily growing demand by the recreational shipping sector. Locks and weirs are sometimes in a bad structural condition and need to be refurbished or replaced. In the medium to long term, the Waterways and Shipping Administration will need to decide on how to deal with these structures. The need to implement the Water Framework Directive and the waterway's precarious situation have prompted the local authorities and the owner of the waterway to join forces under the umbrella of EU-Life IP and to launch the project LiLa Living Lahn. The activities implemented on the Lahn river will also serve as a role model for the overall handling of "Germany's Blue Belt"to create a nationwide system of interlinked biotopes along Germany's major rivers and waterways.

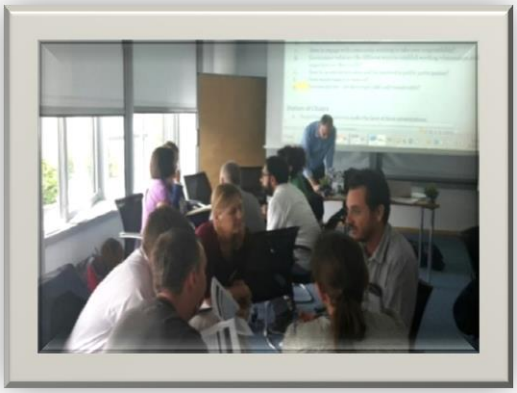
76 delegates attended the platform meeting from across 14 countries, many of them representing 19 LIFE-funded projects that focus on river restoration, river-basin management and hydro-morphological improvements. Further to LIFE projects 20 organizations were also present at the meeting, as well as projects from other financial sources (FP7) or future LIFE IP applicants. The event had the privilege of being attended by Dr Birgit Esser, the Head of BfG; Todd Bridges from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center; Prof Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Witte, the Head of Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency; Claire McCamphill of the EC DG ENV Water Policy Unit and Dr Stephan von Keitz from HMUKLV who were kind enough to provide inspirational and informative keynote speeches. The meeting was opened and closed by Christian Strasser, Deputy Head of the LIFE unit, whose presence throughout the meeting was much appreciated by delegates. Background thematic organization was provided by NEEMO together with the Host.

The platform meeting in its plenary session comprised 2 welcome notes and 3 keynote speeches, identifying the issues, policy drivers, barriers and strategies related to different aspects of river restoration to support the realization of relevant directives, engineering with nature and navigation. Two thematic presentations were further setting the scene and 5 presentations from successful LIFE projects in all brands from different parts of Europe illustrated the diversity and success of implementing LIFE.

3 workshop sessions were completed in the afternoon session with topics of 1) Waterways in a changing world – restoring waterways; 2) River restoration and ecosystem services; 3) Lessons to be learnt: experiences of river restoration work and stakeholder involvement in the restoration processes, with dedicated presentations for each workshop followed by group discussion and feedback to the plenary.

A boat field trip was conducted on the second day introducing the IP project, demonstrating the situation both in the River Lahn and the River Rhine, which have the status of federal waterways. The River Lahn has 29 weirs, 3 minor weirs, 23 locks, 3 boat chutes and 1 navigation tunnel.

Overall most participants rated the event as excellent regarding topic, content, organization and networking.



The presentations of the event will be uploaded to a LIFE site and to the Virtual Platform, currently to be found at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B7qd9CI5mq9idkk0MGJjXzN3clU

Diana Heilmann and Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, the organisers of the Water Platform Meeting and authors of this report on behalf of NEEMO would like to acknowledge the Hosts and contributors to the event:

- The BfG team: Dr Michael Schleuter and all his colleagues, Alexandra Brinke for all organization and logistics;
- The Host IP team: Dr. Stephan von Keitz, Volker Steege, Marianne Badura, Jens Maltzan, Dr.-Ing. Manuela Osterthun and Janet Weinig for concept discussions and thematic assistance;
- The Neemo Communications Team: Gabriella Camarsa and Justin Toland for communication aspects;
- Francois Delcueillerie, Konstantinos Pappas and Sabine Pries from the EC Life Unit, Solon Mias from EASME, Joerg Boehringer and Lynne Barrat, NEEMO for continuous support;
- All speakers, chairs and reporters of the workshops for their great efforts made;
- Thank you to the LIFE project representatives and all delegates who attended and made the event fruitful.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2012, the European Commission published a strategic document called 'A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources' which aimed to tackle the obstacles which hamper action to safeguard Europe's water resources. The report emphasised key themes which included improving land use, addressing water pollution, increasing water efficiency and resilience, and improving governance by those involved in managing water resources. The Blueprint states that the most widespread pressure on ecological status in the EU originate from changes to water bodies due, for example, to dams for hydropower and navigation or draining land for agriculture and it identifies hydro-morphological pressures and alleviation of physical barriers as key issues.

LIFE projects support the management of water resources in the EU and the implementation of water policy, notably the EU Water Framework Directive, by addressing a wide range of issues including among others river basin management and river restoration.

River restoration refers to a large variety of ecological, physical, spatial and management measures and practices. These are aimed at restoring the natural state and functioning of the river system in support of biodiversity, recreation, flood management and landscape development. Rivers (as well as wetlands, lakes) are of huge importance for the biodiversity they hold, and the ecosystem services they deliver. Water bodies (of rivers, lakes) have been subject to multiple threats over many centuries. Weirs, dams and other barriers have broken the migratory routes of rivers of several once common species, and reduced connectivity along the length of several rivers of Europe. The risk of seasonal flooding increased, and various forms of water management have disrupted natural flooding regimes and broken connectivity within floodplain ecosystems. In addition, pollution of various types, from pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, industrial and household waste and the like, have turned some rivers into sewers, largely devoid of life. Rivers and lakes are also at risk from damaging invasive species. Rivers of Europe have a long history of alteration by humans for navigation, water and food supply, waste disposal, flood defence, settlement and power generation.[1]

Overall, one river has several uses and these could conflict with each other. The platform event of LIFE projects hosted by a German Integrated water project examined several aspects and problems of different water uses of rivers, focusing on river restoration and discussed some of the potential solutions and experiences developed by LIFE projects and by international organizations.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLATFORM MEETING

The platform aimed to summarize the main benefits of restoration processes via the experiences and lessons learned from closed and ongoing LIFE projects and other international initiatives, programs and organizations.

Main topics to focus on during the platform meeting:

1. Waterways in a changing world – restoring waterways
2. River restoration and ecosystem services
3. Lessons to be learnt: experiences of river restoration work and stakeholder involvement in the restoration processes.

The outcome of the meeting will be shared with policy makers, will be published in the LIFE newsletter and will allow creating new partnerships to identify and implement new ideas for the future.

[1] Stephen Addy, Susan Cooksley, Nikki Dodd, Kerry Waylen, Jenni Stockan, Anja Byg and Kirsty Holstead (2016) River Restoration and Biodiversity: Nature-based solutions for restoring rivers in the UK and Republic of Ireland. CREW reference: CRW2014/10

4. SUMMARY PROGRAMME

4.1 27TH JUNE 2017 – PLENARY SESSION

4.1.1 Presentation summaries

Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper of NEEMO made the first introductions at the platform meeting and she also moderated the plenary event.

Dr Brigit Esser by the Host BfG, also a partner in the Host IP project welcomed the participants and promoted to discuss opportunities and challenges of developing and managing waterways. She noted that in terms of their organisation and funding, the measures required to implement the Water Framework Directive are a challenge for the competent authorities and for society. The initial investigations of the natural space have revealed a huge demand for restorative actions. She further highlighted integrating ecological and economic objectives on the one hand and the recreational demands of citizens on the other hand to reconcile the multitude of ideas and combine them into one common goal that is generally accepted for the same river with many interests.

Christian Strasser, the Head of EC LIFE Unit also welcomed the delegates to the meeting on behalf of the EC and on behalf of the 25-year-old LIFE Programme. He stressed that in the field of water LIFE has played a significant role and supported more than 300 water related projects during the last years aiming at: addressing the widest spread pressures on water bodies; combatting water pollution from various sources, agriculture, industry, waste water; and increasing water efficiency and resilience. He further called attention to the integrated LIFE projects (IPs), including the Host project as well; projects that so far are very successful: the leverage effect of the first 15 IP amounts to more than 3 billion Euros, which is equivalent to the entire LIFE programme envelope of seven years. He stressed the importance of LIFE platform meetings, which allow to showcase the dynamic created under the programme by presenting innovations in technologies, new management initiatives and new governance challenges which need to be addressed in the future.

The Plenary session featured a keynote speech on river/lake restoration as a measure to support the realization of relevant directives by **Claire McCamphill**, EU Water Unit, DG ENV. She referred to a quote of *Vovoulis* that the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) is widely accepted as the most substantial and ambitious piece of European environmental legislation to date. It has been referred to as a once in a generation opportunity to restore Europe's waters and a potential template for future environmental regulations. Ms McCamphill focused on key EU drivers for river restoration and highlighted that hydro-morphology plays a key role for WFD implementation and mentioned that strategic coordination groups were set up (Ad Hoc Task Group on Article 4 (7) and Ad-Hoc Task Group on Hydromorphology) for the implementation of Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). She detailed ongoing and planned activities for hydromorphology and stressed the importance of Intercalibration Good Ecological Potential (GEP), as comparison of good ecological potential for common uses (water storage, flood protection, agricultural drainage, inland navigation,) importance to understand key mitigation measures and effectiveness of these measures.

Todd Bridges from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center gave the second keynote on engineering with nature. Dr. Bridges highlighted that USACE Civil Works Value to the Nation and mentioned that in the recreation areas 370 million visitors appear annually that generate $16 billion in economic activity and adds up to 270,000 jobs. He illustrated some great figures such as 200-300 million m3 of sediment dredged annually, 12,000 miles of Commercial Inland Waterways transport goods at half of the cost of rail or 1/10 the cost of trucks; 13,000 miles of coastal waterways guarded and 137 Major Environmental Restoration Projects are implemented. He described that nature-based features work in different ways and provided examples from dunes and beaches to vegetated features, oyster and coral reefs, barrier islands and maritime forests and listed the benefits and performance factors. He provided several case studies to demonstrate implementation and listed workshop examples for cooperation. Finally, he listed questions that further to be answered: What processes and engineering requirements are critical to engineering performance and resilience? How will integrated solutions and systems

evolve over time in dynamic environments? How can integrated systems be assembled to reduce long-term O&M costs to sustainably deliver resilience? How can field-scale demonstration projects be used to accelerate progress?

Dr. Stephan von Keitz from HMUKLV presented the third keynote and introduced the host LIFE IP project *LiLa Living Lahn*. He described the current situation for the Navigation Route as follows: since 1982 there is no commercial navigation, there are 3 cruisers. There is inefficient implementation of the WFD: the current ecological status is „unsatisfactory" or „bad", there are deficits for migrating fish, the status of floodplains are „modified" or „heavily modified". He recalled the title of the platform meeting: *One river – many interests* and listed among them the following aspects: navigation, hydropower, nature protection, ecology, flood protection, recreation, tourism, agriculture and climate change. He further presented the IP project data and stressed for principles of cooperation between water management (ecology, flood protection, navigation) with other sectors (tourism, energy) and public participation (round tables, thematic working groups, active project communication). He described project objective as to achieving of a good status/potential of the river and tributaries and the elaboration of a concept for the waterway (Lahnkonzept). He stressed that waterways will have two categories: (1) core net: heavy investments, powerful infrastructure (2) waterways, which will not play an important role in the transport of goods, will be upgraded for recreation and the protection of the environment. He further mentioned that *Living Lahn* as a pilot-project for the German Blue Belt concept.

Solon Mias from Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) presented the recently set up Virtual Networking Platform for LIFE Water projects and Water IPs. The objective of the Virtual Platform as a virtual meeting place for LIFE WATER Experts enabling: exchange of information (non-sensitive), interactions and discussions; a sense of "belonging to a greater LIFE Water family" and a "common area" for the LIFE Water projects and their experts. To access the CIRCABC Network, participants need an ECAS account and can register and login online via https://circabc.europa.eu/. As a first step, the Virtual Platform was opened to 40 2014-2015 LIFE Water projects managed by EASME, and as of the date of the meeting the Virtual Platform is opened to all LIFE Water Project experts.

Zdravko Kozinc from the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) RIVER RES WATER ACTION GROUP set up the scene for the thematic LIFE project presentations and introduced the EIP Water River Res Action Group and the EIP water platform. He recalled that EIP facilitates the development of innovative solutions to address major European and global water challenges, supports the creation of market opportunities for these innovations, both inside and outside of Europe, supports, through knowledge pooling, joint projects and joint marketplace the implementation of Water Directive through Common Implementation Strategy. Their mission is to provide a Roadmap to address current policy challenges as opportunities for innovation through river restoration. Current challenges are a) Improving water quality: knowledge (self-purification ecosystem services in relation to water quality); b) Prevention against extreme events: (recover the lateral connectivity and floodplain = effective green infrastructure solution to buffer against extreme events); c) Protection of biodiversity: rehabilitating river systems to restore the natural habitat of aquatic biodiversity. He introduced IUCN project NAIAD: nature insurance value-assessment and demonstration and further detailed validation by demonstration at 9 European sites. He invited participants to the upcoming large Porto EIP Water Conference on September 27th -28th 2017 and to create Parallel brainstorming sessions in EU countries community of action on river Restoration in Europe.

There follows a summary of the LIFE project presentations at the plenary.

Viktória Siposs	LIFE07 NAT/H/000320 DANUBEISLANDFOREST Conservation of alluvial habitats of community interest on the Szabadság Island and side channel in Béda-Karapancsa pSCI

About the Project

Up to 94% of Hungary's open river floodplains have been lost since the middle of the 19th century. The already closed project aimed to clear the project area (47 ha Danube island, strictly protected, 3 km long and 50-150 m wide side-branch, appr. 50 ha) invasive species and non-native tree plantations and restore the appropriate water flow in the side-arm to improve water availability for white willow forests during low water periods and to facilitate an undisturbed ecosystem, where natural processes are predominant. The project was selected to present its success considering stakeholder involvement in river restoration. A short project film was also presented during the event.

Presentation Summary

- Information and Public participation
- Task share and motivations of partners
- How to get partners on board?
- Benefits for nature
- Benefits for people: ecosystem services

LIFE Database	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=3359
Project website	http://szabadsagsziget.hu/index.php?l=_en

Marjana Hoenigsfeld Adamič	LIFE10 INF/SI/000135 AQUAVIVA Live Water - from Biodiversity to the Tap

About the Project

The AQUAVIVA project's main objective was to improve public awareness in Slovenia about the importance of protecting and conserving freshwater ecosystems. By using the European otter as an "ambassador" for freshwater habitats and biodiversity, the project helped to implement EU policies relating to wildlife and water. The project aimed to develop an effective tool for communication activities to support the goals of "Countdown 2010" and beyond (to stop biodiversity loss by 2020); as well as following the goal of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), which aims to improve water quality in the Danube and its tributaries. The project beneficiary LUTRA Institute was invited to take part on the Sava River Basin Commission, to participate in the Sava Water Council, where it can influence local decisions relating to the prevention of pollution, maintaining favourable status of Natura 2000 network sites, and trans-boundary impacts.

Presentation Summary

- Environmental problems targeted
- Freshwater ecosystems
- Public familiarity with the term biodiversity in Slovenia and Awareness of Natura 2000
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is not living.
- Sava River Sub-Basin Agreement as a good praxis of Danube River Protection Convention
- Methods for communication campaigns: Cleaning actions and exhibitions, Sculptures made of junk material, Biodiversity on city buses, Diatoms exhibition: Revealed wanders of the river Exhibition, Fashion collections.

LIFE Database	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=s

	earch.dspPage&n_proj_id=4030
Project website	http://aquaviva.si/en/

Alfredo Caggianelli	LIFE11 ENV/IT/000243 RII – LIFE

About the Project

The general aim of the RII project is to demonstrate that Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC can also be applied to:

- Networks of drainage basins and watersheds, not directly addressed by the two directives; and
- Heavily urbanised areas along the borders between hilly mountainous territories and the plain, where the minor drainage network is typically modified.

The project's specific goals are:

- To introduce, test and demonstrate the usefulness of (a) innovative territory management strategies and water course intervention techniques, based on WFD and Floods Directive key concepts, in order to manage hydraulic critical points and the ecological quality of the networks of drainage basins and watersheds; (b) innovative economic-legal management tools to support flood risk management and territory ecological restoration;
- To demonstrate restoration works in selected creeks; the restoration work will show that flood risk can be dealt with through ecological quality improvement techniques, despite limitations caused by the location of built-up areas along creeks;
- To contribute to an improvement in the ecological quality of the minor drainage network located in a heavily urbanised strip close to the hillside, thus reducing local and downriver flood risk;

To increase the awareness of citizens and of Italian and European authorities involved in river management about the positive impacts these techniques can have for environmental protection flood risk management.

Presentation Summary

- Innovative, shared and transparent design measures
- Information and Public participation
- Life RII Starting situation
- Flood stress in urban areas and flood risk
- Environmental problems through roads and agriculture
- Hydraulic and environmental restoration: Stream bed enlargement, requalification of riparian vegetation, reconnection with flood plains, narrowing in stone.
- Greater commitment to design with a much longer time

LIFE Database	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4237
Project website	http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/life-rii-en

Jasmin Sadiković	LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 DRAVA LIFE DRAVA LIFE – Integrated River Management

About the Project

River ecosystems are extremely threatened in Europe. The Drava in the project area, along with the connected Mura and Danube reaches, is one of Europe's most important examples. The creation of a Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Mura-Drava-Danube" in Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Serbia is a central part of Europe's largest river protection initiative. The LIFE project is the first inter-sectorial cooperation and integrated management initiative focusing on Croatian rivers. It aims to implement EU Directives (e.g. Water Framework, Floods, Birds and Habitats) to solve river ecosystem problems.

Presentation Summary

- Drava river in Croatia is one of the most important river ecosystem in Europe
- Drava river is part of NATURA 2000 and Regional park Mura - Drava in Croatia and is central part of Transboundary UNESCO Biosphere reserve Mura- Drava-Danube
- Restoration activities: 7 localities on Drava river
- Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights
- Planning and monitoring activities: lidar - Drava map

LIFE Database	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5327
Project website	http://www.drava-life.hr/en/home/

Pauliina Louhi	LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023 FRESHABIT Towards integrated management of freshwater Nature 2000 sites and habitats

About the Project

FRESHABIT focuses on fresh- and groundwater dependent habitats, coastal and estuarine habitats and species depending on water in several Natura 2000 network sites across Finland. The project aims to develop new methodology and indicators for assessing the conservation status of freshwater habitats. It will also enhance sustainable use of freshwater resources by integrating conservation approaches in ecosystem-based entrepreneurship and to improve environmental awareness.

The main objectives of FRESHABIT are to:

- Build coordination structures, models and networks for integrated planning, implementation and monitoring schemes for directives related to freshwater management, and to demonstrate these in eight regional networks of Natura 2000 sites;
- Improve the conservation, management, and sustainable use of freshwater habitats and related resources by enhancing cooperation among administrative and operational actors, particularly by emphasising private-public partnerships;
- Improve the conservation and ecological status of freshwater habitats and related species in selected regional networks by habitat restoration;
- Develop and demonstrate methodology related to assessment, modelling and monitoring of freshwater habitats, ecosystem services and cultural heritage;
- Develop biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators serving both national and international monitoring and policy needs; and
- Enhance sustainable use of freshwater resources by integrating conservation approaches in ecosystem-based entrepreneurship and to improve environmental awareness.

Presentation Summary

- Largest LIFE project in Finland ever

• Improved ecological status and biodiversity of selected aquatic N2000-sites • Information and Public participation: Cooperation and stakeholder involvement • First experiences on assessing ESSs: Assessment of ESs is a prioritized action in Finnish PAF.	
LIFE Database	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5437
Project website	http://www.metsa.fi/web/en/freshabit

4.2 27th June 2017 – Workshop Sessions

4.2.1 WORKSHOP 1: WATERWAYS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Introduction to the workshop

The Chair Person of the WS was Dr. Todd S. Bridges, Senior Research Scientist, Environmental Science, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory. The Keynote was presented by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Witte, Head of Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency on the Importance of development concepts for inland waterways. The Rapporteur of the WS was Mr Dipl.-Geol. Harald Köthe, from the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI).

This workshop provided an international platform for exchange of experiences with several aspects and problems of different water uses of rivers, focusing on river restoration, especially at waterways, and discussed some of the potential solutions and experiences. One focal point was how to deal with rivers, which recently are re-categorized as inland waterways of minor importance for waterborne transport and how to *utilize* this re-categorization for promoting water-ecological and nature protection purposes.

Questions posed upfront:

- Are there comparable projects in other countries for promoting water-ecological and nature protection purposes at inland waterways?
- How are they organized, who are the “drivers”?
- Are there plans or programs for promoting water-ecological and nature protection purposes at inland waterways?
- How is the participation of stakeholder and the public organized?

Additional questions posed:

- Is it expected that the projects will lead to a good ecological status/potential of water bodies being achieved?
- Is it expected that the projects might lead to a change in the designation of water bodies from heavily modified to natural?
- Is it expected that the projects might achieve a better classification of the status of Natura 2000 species or biotopes?
- How can the positive effects of the projects for WFD and Natura 2000 targets be demonstrated at artificial and heavily modified waters?
- Who is legally the operator of restoration measures at waterways or artificial waters indifferent countries?
- How are the experiences to be able to use public-ownership areas for restoration measures?

List of participating LIFE projects

- LIFE Flusserlebnis ISAR - LIFE14 NAT/DE/000278
- LiLa Living Lahn - LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022

List of participating relevant organisations

- EIP WATER – RiverRes Platform
- International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine River (IKSDR)
- Blaues Band Deutschland
- Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency (GDWS)
- German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)

The Chair provided a short overview on the new challenges, such as climate change, aging infrastructure, new legislation, regulations and new ways of stakeholder engagement. The Keynote speaker, Prof. Witte presented the introduction about the situation of the German waterway net with focus on the so-called side-net which has low transportation importance only. It was advised that round tables at early stages may take a lot of time at the beginning but can include many opportunities and support later for plan approval.

The following remarks were made related to opportunities of Interdisciplinary Cooperation:

Understanding of the "other stakeholder" view should be addressed at an early stage.

- Collaboration in action planning and implementation allows synergies effects in the interest of an optimized achievement of the measures.
- Dialogue-oriented cooperation with citizens, users, associations, state authorities and municipalities in the design of the development concept promotes the acceptance of results, possibly also for "uncomfortable" results.
- Dialogue-oriented cooperation in the design of the development concept enables interests to be balanced beyond the boundaries of responsibility of individual project promoters.
- The elaboration of consensus solutions can promote satisfaction with the project result for all partners.
- Not everyone can achieve everything, but all together can achieve a lot – an intensive process that is worthwhile.

Following the keynote speech, intense discussion started among the participants, as summed up below:

Mrs. Zischka, H&S, Managing LIFE **project Isar** mentioned that the project started in October 2016 and it is in a planning phase. It aims to restore the river Isar to its old glory / Bavaria, Germany. The measures are primarily designed to increase the ecological value of the Isar River and its floodplains to create natural habitats for species of animals and plants.

Mr. Maltzan, from the Water and shipping office Koblenz, **Living Lahn project** stated that the Lahn is classified heavily modified and one of the project goals is the Lahn concept and that there is social and political consensus: the Lahn declaration. He mentioned that how to achieve this is a learning process. To a question: How to organize communications? It was mentioned that there is a Communication concept which identifies the relevant stakeholders.

Laura Gangi, from the **International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine** mentioned that there is a Programme Rhine 2020, launched in 2001. Many measures are taken to improve the river and most responsible parties and stakeholders are on board.

Volker Steege, from the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure discussing the **Blue Belt** concept, highlighted promoting restoration measures at inland waterways and their floodplains, especially at waterways of minor importance for freight transport. He stressed the need on implementing “ecological stepping stones” at the very busy federal waterways and developing a nationally important system of interlinked biotopes on the network of rivers. It was approved by the Federal Cabinet in February 2017. For successful implementation, the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration needs an extended legal mandate (water management tasks) (Intention of Deutscher Bundestag for next legislative period).

The participants identified the following **Key findings and conclusions:**

What is the No.1 challenge?

- Effects on the shorelines by passing ships, more ecological protected shorelines needed.
- Bringing the stakeholders together, need for communication professionals in the team, present a clear picture or vision of the future river.
- Good public information and communications.
- Limitating the interests to come to an end/conclusion; too much democracy?
- Finances and legal justification.
- Specific areas/space is needed and difficult to get along the rivers.
- Giving nature a value to justify projects with cost-benefit analysis.
- Mainstreaming the ideas to better include nature restoration into infrastructure planning.
- Article 9 –extension of water services to include paying for addressing navigations impact on water ecosystems.
- Go for multiple target approach from beginning gives more flexibility.
- Knowledge examination and distribution should be improved.

What is the most important ingredient in a good program?

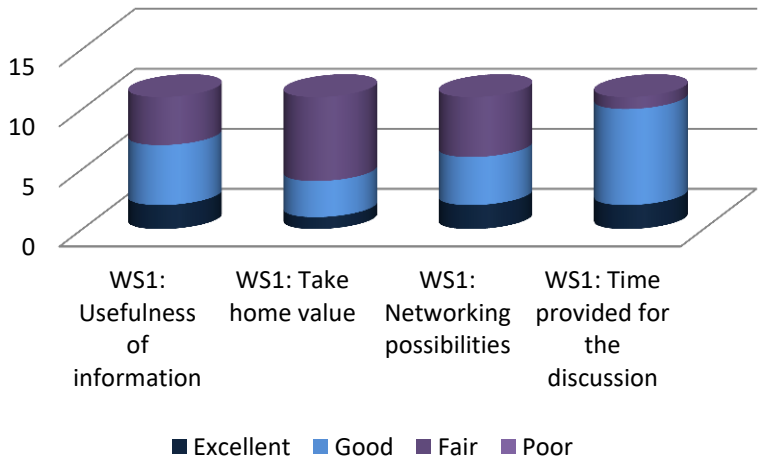
- Creating a reliable common ground of the most relevant authorities and stakeholder to work successfully together.
- Trust and confidence between actors.
- Larger conceptual view gives flexibility in the process.
- Being more creative and using innovative engineering ideas implies the need for good risk management.
- Common language and understanding amongst engineers and ecologists.
- Emphasize/Focus on the main stressors of the project and invest accordingly.

Why do the responsible authorities, who are managing big budgets on rivers, are not coming up with new solutions without pressure and support of politics or NGO´s or EU COM?

- More European countries are needed during the discussions to exchange information/knowledge.
- Stakeholder could consider the LIFE NCFF (Natural Capital Financial Facility) for innovative financing with advantageous interest rates.

Evaluation of the WS session (based on feedback on the evaluation forms)

Out of 20 participants 11 filled in the evaluation form (55 % of the workshop participants). Not all participants filled all questions in the evaluation form. The workshop participants (filling in the evaluation form) thought that the usefulness of information was good/satisfactory. Based on the feedback the take-home value and networking possibilities were adequate.



Acknowledgement

The organiser thanks for Prof. Witte for the excellent keynote presentation, to Dr. Bridges the highly efficient chairing, to Mr Köthe for the professional rapporteur work and for all participants actively involved in the workshop discussion.

4.2.2 WORKSHOP 2: RIVER RESTORATION AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Introduction to the workshop

Workshop on river restoration and ecosystem services was investigating on the positive impacts of LIFE projects water (river) restoration activities in relation to ecosystem services.

17 participants were presented in the WS session representing 8 LIFE projects, from 7 countries.

Keynote was presented by Mr Christian Albert, from Trust Research Institute Hannover. The keynote gave an overview on ecosystem services, policy relevance (restoration) for river landscapes, approaches for assessment and valuation. Following the keynote speech, the participating LIFE projects introduced their project focusing on the project area and its relevant ecosystem services, key drivers of change in the regions and related impacts they should manage within the project, the type of restoration work (actions) they do. In the frame of the discussion part the positive impacts of restoration work on ecosystem services were discussed. The workshop participants received the main questions to be discussed prior to the event. The rapporteur, Ms Barbara Schröter, Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandforschung – Institute of Socio-economics, took notes during the workshop and reported back to the plenary during the wrap-up session in line with the main questions and objective of the workshop. The workshop lasted 100 minutes.

Objective of the workshop session

The objective was to investigate the positive impacts of LIFE projects water (river) restoration activities in relation to ecosystem services (ES). In the frame of the workshop, participants learned about each other about the drivers and impacts on ecosystem services, the type of water (river) restoration works implemented in the frame of the LIFE projects. Projects were asked whether they can estimate the benefit of the restoration work using the ecosystem services approach. The aim of the workshop was to investigate what methods projects are using for identifying and mapping ES and whether findings of projects in relation to ES have any policy relevance. Following the keynote presentation, the participating projects gave feedback on the following points:

- What ES are important elements in their project regions, and for whom?
- What are or have been key drivers of change in their regions, and how did or do they impact important ES in the future?
- What actions do the LIFE Projects plan to implement to restore the rivers, and what positive or negative impacts/trade-offs do they expect on biodiversity and ES?
- Which methods do they plan to use to monitor biodiversity and ES?

Eight LIFE projects were represented on the workshop:

- LIFE07 NAT/A/000012 - Lebensraum im Mündungsabschnitt des Flusses Traisen
- LIFE10 NAT/AT/016 - Netzwerk Österreichische Donau Lebensraum und Durchgängigkeit
- LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857 - LIFE Resto Unio
- LIFE13 ENV/ES/000341 - LIFE TRIVERS
- LIFE13 NAT/HU/000388 - OLD DRAVA
- LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 - Drava –LIFE
- LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022 - LiLA LIVING Lahn
- LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023 - FRESHABIT LIFE IP

Key findings and conclusions

Ecosystem Services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems that promote human well-being (MEA 2010). The participants of the workshop first introduced the ecosystem services addressed within the LIFE projects. Each main service (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural) was concerned.

LIFE projects addressed provisioning services (main products obtained from the ecosystems) consisted of water for drinking as well as for non- drinking purposes, wild animals and fish, agriculture and timber products. As the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes (regulation services) water purification, flood protection, carbon and greenhouse sequestration were mentioned. As non-material benefits or cultural services the recreation, spiritual appreciation, education, aesthetics, and blue care (relaxation) roles were mentioned. As an important point, the supporting service of maintaining habitats and populations was also indicated.

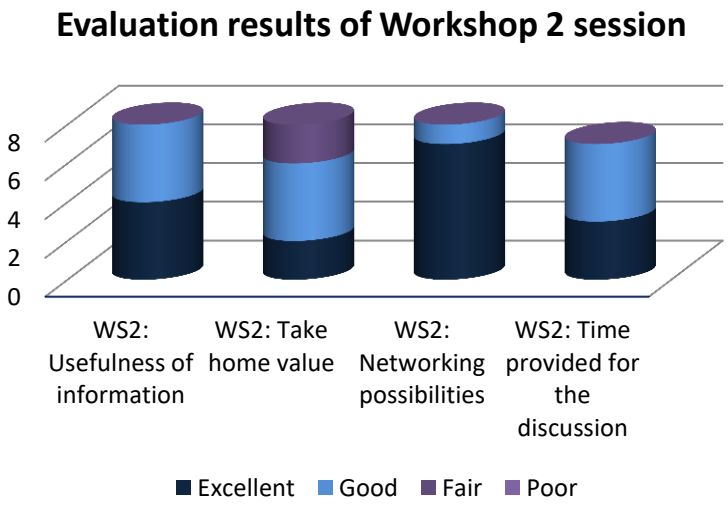
The projects have a wide palette of actions to restore rivers. They:

- restore ox bows, floodplains, peat lands
- develop water management plans
- restore the hydro regime
- deal with habitat creation
- improve water quality
- create education path
- create of fish passes

The participants concluded that the ES concept offer good opportunities in demonstrating the added value of restoration works, it helps to use synergies to support projects. The ES concept also offers communication benefits and public acceptance. However, during the discussion it was also noted that the ES concept can underestimate non-monetary values and under emphasize non-services. It was also concluded that the assessment of the ES is still a challenge. Among methods economic and mixed assessment measures were mentioned (e.g. mapping cultural heritage, socio-economic studies) but there were no clear ideas of participants what methods should be used to properly assess ES.

Evaluation of the WS session (based on feedback on the evaluation forms)

Out of 17 participants 8 filled in the evaluation form (47 % of the workshop participants). Not all participants filled all questions in the evaluation form. The workshop participants (filling in the evaluation form) were highly satisfied with the workshop session especially related to the usefulness of information and networking possibilities. The workshop session was professionally leaded by the rapporteur and keynote speaker and lively as well as valuable discussion was led in the given timeframe.



Acknowledgement

The organiser thanks for Mr Christian Albert for the excellent keynote presentation and to Ms Barbara Schröter for the professional rapporteur work and for all participants actively involved in the workshop discussion.

4.2.3 WORKSHOP 3: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE RESTORATION PROCESSES - EXPERIENCES OF RIVER RESTORATION WORKS

Introduction to the workshop

The chair and keynote speech was provided by Mr Paul Chapman, PCEU Consulting Ltd, from LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127 QUERCUS project on Lessons to be learnt: experiences of river restoration work and experiences in stakeholder involvement in the restoration processes. The rapporteur was dr Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper from the NEEMO Team.

Background:

River restoration aims to re-establish ecological functions of running water ecosystems. The recognition of river restoration projects is particularly high as they change the appearance as well as the social, ecological and economic function of a public environment essentially. Due to these multiple interferences, the planning and implementation of river restoration will provoke ambitious issues. Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive (EU-WFD) (2000/60/EG) addresses "public information and consultation". It requires formal public participation and supports active public participation during the development process of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). While formal participation is described in detail in the directive, it provides no binding guideline on how to implement the recommended active part. On project level, formal public participation ensures that every affected party can participate in the approval procedure, and in most cases, critical issues have to be negotiated in a public hearing. While public participation on river basin level is open for everyone, on project level, formal public participation is only including immediately affected stakeholders.

The objective of the workshop: The objective was to investigate on the positive impacts of LIFE projects water (river) restoration activities in relation to public involvement and to investigate on what methods projects are using to actively use public opinion in project implementation.

19 participants were presented in the WS session representing 10 LIFE projects, from 8 countries.

- QUERCUS - LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127
- DANUBEISLAND - LIFE07 NAT/H/000320
- LIFE Resto - LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857
- LIFE+Albufera – LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685
- LIFE RINSACE - LIFE13 ENV/IT/000169
- IREKIBAI - LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186
- LiLa Living Lahn - LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022
- DRAVA-LIFE -LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115
- EH-REK – LIFE08 ENV/PL/000517
- LIFE Belini - LIFE15 IPE BE 014

Questions posed prior the WS:

- Why is it important to engage stakeholders in the restoration processes?
- How stakeholders can contribute?
- How to engage with community assisting to take over responsibility?
- Governance: what are the different ways to establish working relationships and how important are they really?
- How to access information and be involved in public participation?
- How maintenance is ensured?
- Success stories – are they replicable and transferable?

The keynote gave an overview on a successful UK LIFE project **QUERCUS - LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127** that even after 10 years can proudly present great results. Mr Chapman stressed to value public engagement: as experience shows that residents want to get involved, but not always for the reasons we think they should. Real improvements and added value to the existing plans are needed, also an ongoing ownership. Then it can change perceptions: from 'what river?' to 'MY RIVER!' Immediate results show: 250% increase in use, 70% agreed the QUERCUS project has increased the use and enjoyment of Ladywell Fields and its river. Increase from 44% to 78% feeling safer, twice as many species recorded following the restoration. Ongoing local engagement in river clean-ups and nature conservation. Initial LIFE funding of €1.2m led to €2.3m river related funding from London Development Agency (2010) and London Planning Awards Best New Public Space (2013). Follow up EU project 5 Member States €1.2m focussing on river corridor management and it also led to €4.9m for parkland and river restoration from Heritage Lottery (2016 onwards).

Following the keynote speech, some LIFE projects introduced their project focusing on the project area:

• **LIFE RINSACE - LIFE13 ENV/IT/000169** Marco Monaci and Dott. Aronne Ruffini presented their project with a focus on Naturalistic Restoration for the integrated hydraulic – environmental Sustainability of the Emilian Canals. The artificial canals (3.500 Km), digging trapezoidal section channels used to remove rainwater from land and to make this land available for agriculture and housing. The project should solve the problems of high flood risk caused by channels and the low ecological status due to the "strong" maintenance of vegetation and riverbed, which doesn't allow the development of stable and structured habitats. The project decided to solve problems by adapting *river restoration* approach to artificial drainage network by giving *more space to the river,* by creating a new floodable area, digging about 10,000 cubic meters of land to lower the level of the campaign plan. Stakeholder participation has been realized in several ways, ie. by numerous meetings, technical workshops and conferences, organizing a participatory process during the design phase and through the direct involvement of the neighbouring owners.

• **LIFE+Albufera – LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685** Matthieu Lassalle and Lucia Moreno Fernandez summed up their LIFE+Albufera project (Integrated management of three artificial wetlands in compliance with the Water Framework Directive, and Birds and Habitats Directives). The communication and dissemination actions have been addressed to the Natural Park`s population. A big effort has been done to show the results to citizenship and open the artificial wetlands to the public. There have been a lot of activities, guided tours, Environmental World's day celebrations, volunteering with total 5000 participants, also the Life+Albufera's team has gone out to the municipalities to present the project, with a travelling exhibition.

• **LIFE Belini - LIFE15 IPE BE 014**Stevie Swenne introduced his Belgian water IP project, outlining the Belgian initiative for making a leap forward towards good status in the river basin district of the Scheldt. He noted to improve cooperation at governance level through interregional policy working group, pressure and impact analysis; monitoring programme; priorities & planning and further to improve cooperation at the local level through interregional water consultation bodies. He advised participants in order to avoid conflict to create a different level of governance.

• **IREKIBAI - LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186** (Javier Perez's presentation unfortunately could not be shown during the WS; we are sorry about this. It is uploaded with other slides). The project is related to Open rivers: Improving connectivity and habitats of rivers shared by Navarra and Gipuzkoa.

Key findings and conclusions

After project presentations, the participants were divided into small groups to discuss the questions posed. After group discussion, the whole WS group held an open debate and identified stakeholder issues together as follows:

1. Why/how important to engage stakeholders?
    - Need local support/value them
    - To be realistic/face reality
    - To reach common understanding
    - To ensure sustainability of results
    - Feel ownership/join the project

2 Taking responsibility and maintenance
- Devolve responsibilities
- Ensure local involvement in the future
- Develop long term plans/VISION
- Create stakeholder agreements

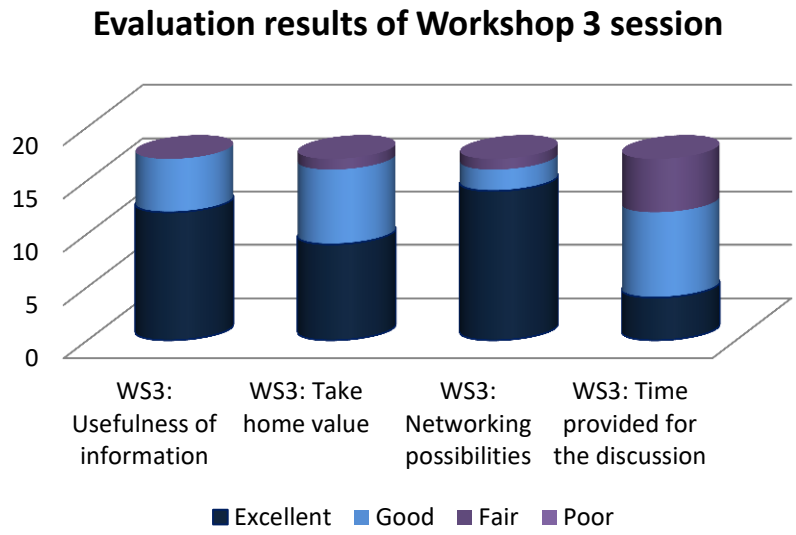
3 Are success stories replicable?
- Important when replicable/duplicable/ magnified
- Transferring models
- Change conditions and adapt accordingly
- Pay attention to local conditions (salmon example: „swim against tides")

4 Problems need solving
- TIME --- consider weighting
- Out of scope issues
- Long term lack of trust

5 Suggestions
- Accept short term failures
- Find your CHAMPIONS/at evidence gathering stage already!

Evaluation of the WS3 session (based on feedback on the evaluation forms)

Out of 19 participants 17 filled in the evaluation form (89 % of the workshop participants). Not all participants filled all questions in the evaluation form. The workshop participants (filling in the evaluation form) were highly satisfied with the workshop especially related to the usefulness of information and networking possibilities. The take-home value was also highly appreciated and useful.



Acknowledgement

The organiser thanks for Mr Chapman for his excellent keynote presentation, involvement and for all participants actively involved in the workshop discussion.

4.3 REPORTING SESSION, OPEN DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP

After the three workshop sessions ended, WS rapporteurs prepared their summary presentations and reported back on conclusions and results at the plenary session. There was a possibility for open discussion and for the participants asking questions from the rapporteurs.

WS1

•One of the points indicated by the rapporteur raised the question 'Why do the responsible authorities, who are managing big budgets on rivers, are not coming up with new solutions without pressure and support of politics or NGO´s or EU COM?' It was indicated in the plenary that despite big budget no suitable (big) human resources are available to handle all occurring tasks.

•Related to the question about how far the 17 sustainable development goals of sustainable development agenda item are considered, it was reflected by the rapporteur that sustainable goals are indeed important and must be taken into account.

WS2

• How far could you resolve that instrumental risk got into practice (fixed price, carbon system) and how far did you compare the possibilities of the fixed price and the cap-and-trade system?

  o Despite these questions were not discussed within WS2, it was indicated that several ways exist to measure ES. Monetary is only one way of measuring. The point in assessing the ES is to describe the benefits for human well-being. Using 'price' for the assessment of ES is rather a concept. It is not a price, but only a negotiation for using the 'price' for a specific question.

•How do you use this tool for public communication? The reply was that these (ES) are tools that public should use. Help to identify multi beneficial measures – and to do the right measure in the right place; it should be used as a planning tool.

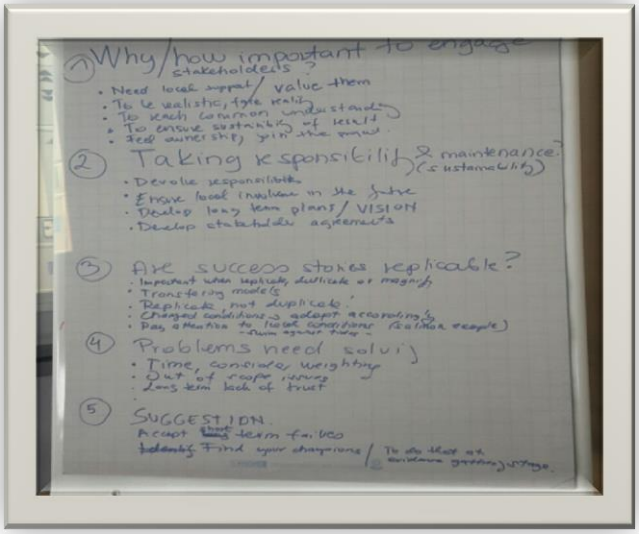
WRAP UP

Mr Strasser from the LIFE Unit wrapped up the first day of the Platform meeting and stressed on further needs for cooperation. He called upon all LIFE stakeholders to actively participate in future platform meetings and noted that the EC by organising these platforms intend to facilitate exchange of knowledge, know-how, good practices and by doing that enhance the sustainability of the programme as a whole. He reminded that the outcome of the meeting will be shared with policy makers, will be published in the LIFE newsletter and will allow creating new partnerships to identify and implement new ideas for the future. He finally thanked the Host institution and all organizers for a successful day and noted that the event will continue with a field trip on the River Lahn on the second day.

4.4 27TH JUNE 2017 – FIELD TRIP

On the second day of the Platform meeting, the Host BfG experts organized an excellent boat trip to demonstrate the situation in the surrounding rivers. Mr **Volker Steege** provided explanatory remarks about the rivers Rhine and Lahn – two very different types of federal waterways. He noted that both rivers are managed by the Waterways and Shipping Administration of the Federal Government. Mr Steege remarked that with a share of approximately 85 % of all goods transported by waterways in Germany, the Rhine is the most important and busiest inland waterway in Europe. In the mountain range section, the Middle Rhine, approximately 60 million tonnes of goods are moved per year. He further recalled that the Federal Government plans to reduce bottlenecks on the Middle and Lower Rhine stabilizing the water level in low water phases and to stabilize the river bed against erosion. The integrated project approach is quite innovative for a federal waterway and will need to be managed carefully to succeed. He then focused on the river Lahn that has been used as a waterway since many centuries. He mentioned that there have always been competing uses. Already in the Middle Ages, the use of waterpower competed with navigation. For water mills and hammer mills, weirs were built which made navigating on waterways more difficult. The first efforts to improve navigability were undertaken around 1600. In 1981, the last cargo vessel navigated the Lahn, carrying a shipment of wire rod. Today all in all, about 100,000 to 150,000 canoeists, paddlers and rowers a year are using the waterway. He stressed that locks and weirs are sometimes in a bad structural condition and need to be refurbished or replaced. In the medium to long term, the Waterways and Shipping Administration will need to decide on how to deal with these structures. Finally, he concluded his hopes that the LIFE-IP will enable to gain experience and create an impetus also for other waterways; in particular for the Federal Government Programme “Germany's Blue Belt”.

5. PLATFORM CONCLUSIONS



The platform meeting comprised number of keynote speeches, thematic speeches and project presentations identifying the issues, policy drivers, barriers and strategies to achieving good water status and balance between different water uses, from river restoration, waterways and navigation.

Beside experts from international organizations and national waterways also successful LIFE projects could present their viewpoints and experiences. Participants were engaged in group discussions and working groups, enabling informal networking.

During the platform discussions, it was concluded that dialogue-oriented cooperation with citizens, users, associations, state authorities and municipalities in the design of the development concept promotes the acceptance of results, possibly also for "uncomfortable" results. Experience shows also that residents want to get involved in river restoration: their voices should be taken into consideration at the earliest momentum, also to ensure future sustainability. During the discussion on ecosystem services it was concluded that the assessment of the ES is still a challenge.

It is recommended that the findings from this platform meeting are transmitted to the water policy unit in DG ENV.

Further networking would result of the platform meeting. At the event, already an Italian project indicated interest to hold the following Platform on water and the Belgian IP project indicated interest for cooperating further in the theme.

An important outcome from the meeting could be the further improved Virtual Platform to provide a forum for discussion, exchange of ideas and a platform to advertise events. The NEEMO team are currently working on a platform for posting information (presentations, posters and findings) and for future communications within the network, as agreed during the event. The information and links will be posted out to the participants via the Communications team during the first quarter of the new contract.

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

LIFE WATER PLATFORM MEETING

One RIVER-MANY INTERESTS

27-28th June 2017, KOBLENZ, GERMANY

AGENDA – DAY 1 – Plenary

The meeting is hosted by the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG) and the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection under the auspices of the LIFE 14 Integrated Project LIFE14 IPE/DE/022 - Living River Lahn

Meeting venue:

Federal Institute of Hydrology, Am Mainzer Tor 1 Koblenz

08:30	Registration
09:15	**PLENARY** - Restoration activities to reach good status of waters Moderator-Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, NEEMO Monitoring Team
09:15	**Welcome notes** by the Host institute- Dr. Birgit Esser / Head of German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG) **Welcome notes** by theEC LIFE Unit-Mr Christian Strasser
09:35	**Keynote Speaker 1** River/lake restoration as a measure to support the realization of relevant directives(Water Framework Directive, Flood Directive, Natura 2000) EC Water Unit- Claire McCamphill
09:50	**Keynote Speaker 2** Engineering with Natur –Todd Bridges, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development
10:05	**Keynote Speaker 3** Navigation and related restoration measures- Introduction of the host LIFE IP project – LiLa LivingLahn - Dr. Stephan von Keitz / HMUKLV
10:20	**EC: Presenting the virtual networking platform for LIFE Water projects and water IPs** Solon Mias, EASME
10:40	*Morning Tea and networking*

11:10	**Setting the Scene** – r**estoration measures to reach good status of waters** **EIP Water RiverRes EIP Water Action Group:** Zdravko Kozinc, Slovenia Thematic presentations by the invited LIFE projects at the plenary: • LIFE07 NAT/H/000320 DANUBEISLANDFOREST/Viktória Siposs • LIFE10 INF/SI/000135 AQUAVIVA/Marjana Hönigsfeld Adamič • LIFE11 ENV/IT/000243 RII/ Alfredo Caggianelli • LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 DRAVA LIFE /Jasmin Sadiković • LIFE14 IPE/UK/000027 LIFE-IP Natural Course • LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023 FRESHABITPauliina Louhi		
12:15	Questions and answers		
12:25	**Introducing workshop leaders and group divisions**		
12:30	**Group Photo session: all participants and organizers as well**		
12:45	**Press meeting**		
13:00	*LUNCH and networking*		
14:00	Workshop session (breaking into three groups)		
	Workshop 1 **Waterways in a changing world**	Workshop 2 **River restoration and ecosystem services**	Workshop 3-4 joined **Stakeholder involvement in the restoration processes - Lessons to be learnt: experiences of river restoration works**
14.00-14.15	**Keynote speaker:** **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Witte** / Head of Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency: Importance of development concepts for inland waterways **Chairperson**: Ph.D. Dr. Todd S. Bridges / Senior Research Scientist, Environmental Science, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory **Rapporteur:** Dipl.-Geol. Harald Köthe, German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)	**Keynote and chairperson: Prof. Dr. Christian Albert**, Trust Research Institute Hannover: Overview on ecosystem services, policy relevance (restoration) for river landscapes, approaches for assessment and valuation **Rapporteur:** **Dr. Barbara Schröter,** Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandforschung (ZALF e.V.) Institute of Socio-Economics	**Keynote and chairperson: Paul Chapman-** LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127 QUERCUS project manager PCEU Consulting Ltd: Lessons to be learnt: experiences of river restoration works and experiences in stakeholder involvement in the restoration processes **Rapporteur: Dr. Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper** (NEEMO Team)

5-5 min	**Invited projects:** • Life Flusserlebnis ISAR - LIFE14 NAT/DE/000278 • LiLa Living Lahn - LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022 **Organizations:** •EIP WATER – RiverRes Platform •International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine River (IKSDR) •Blaues Band Deutschland •Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency (GDWS) German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)	**Invited projects:** • LIFE07 NAT/A/000012 - Lebensraum im Mündungsabschnitt des Flusses Traisen • LIFE10 NAT/AT/016 - Netzwerk Österreichische Donau Lebensraum und Durchgängigkeit • LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857 - LIFE Resto Unio • LIFE13 ENV/ES/000341 - LIFE TRIVERS • LIFE13 NAT/HU/000388 - OLD DRAVA • LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 - Drava –LIFE • LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022 - LiLA LIVING Lahn • LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023 - FRESHABIT LIFE IP	**Invited projects:** • QUERCUS - LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127 • DANUBEISLAND - LIFE07 NAT/H/000320 • LIFE Resto - LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857 • LIFE+Albufera – LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685 • LIFE RINSACE - LIFE13 ENV/IT/000169 • IREKIBAI - LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186 • LiLa Living Lahn - LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022 • DRAVA-LIFE -LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115 • EH-REK –LIFE08 ENV/PL/000517 • Unlocking the Severn LIFE15NAT/UK/000219 • LIFE Belini - LIFE15 IPE BE 014
15:40	**Preparation of rapporteurs to the reporting session**		
16:00	**Reporting from workshop sessions and Open Discussion (Plenary, Room 2307)**		
	Questions and answers		
	Drone video presentation (Host)		
17:30	WRAP-UP Ending scientific part of the conference (EC/ Christian Strasser)		
19.30	Conference dinner restaurant Blumenhof (free of charge)		

LIFE WATER PLATFORM MEETING **One RIVER-MANY INTERESTS** **27-28th June 2017, KOBLENZ** **AGENDA – DAY 2 – Field trip**	
08:30	Field trip by Boot from Koblenz to Bad Ems Meeting Point: Koblenz Landebrücke 6 (Moselschifffahrt Hölzenbein) Boarding, Field trip start
09:00	Departure
	Introduction in the Day (Hessian Ministry of Environment, Dr. Stephan von Keitz) River Lahn - History and Significance as waterway (German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), Volker Steege)
09:40	Barrage Lahnstein: Ecological patency at the Federal waterway Lahn pilot „fish sluicing management "at Lahnstein barrage (Waterways and shipping Office Koblenz, Katrin Schulze)
10:20	Barrage Ahl Optimization of weir passages for human powered water tourism by considering principles of nature conservation and sustainability (Waterways and shipping Office Koblenz, Jens Maltzan)
11:05	• Barrage Nievern, Lahn Concept: Developing an integrated Concept for the Lahn River waterway (Waterways and shipping Office Koblenz, Jens Maltzan) • River Lahn conflict waterway, nature Conservation for example Project "Dice snake" Natrix tessellata (Rhineland Palatinate Ministry of environment, Nadine Becker) • Sediment management concept (German Federal Institute of Hydrology, Alexandra Brinke)
12:05	Barrage Bad Ems Bad Ems historic sites (external guide)
12:30	Buffet Lunch (free of charge)
14:00	Barrage Lahnstein UNESCO World Heritage Site Upper Middle Rhine Valley (external guide)
15:00	Arrival at Koblenz, End of meeting

ANNEX 2 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Project No.	Institution	Representative	Country
1		Leibniz Universität Hannover	Albert, Prof. Dr. Christian	Germany
2	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie, Ernährung und Forsten Rheinland-Pfalz.	Antoni, Catherine	Germany
3	LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857	Natur&emwelt	Arendt, Alexandra	Luxemburg
4	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	blue! advancing european projects	Badura, Marianne	Germany
5		BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany, NABU Hessen	Baumann, Barbara	Germany
6	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Ministerium für Umwelt, Energie, Ernährung und Forsten Rheinland-Pfalz	Becker, Nadine	Germany
7		Netzwerk Deutsche Wasserwege	Berends, Helmut	Germany
8		NEEMO	Bergman, Felix	Germany
9		NEEMO	Boehringer, Joerg	Germany
10		USACE	Bridges, Todd S	USA
11	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Brinke, Alexandra	Germany
12		Federal Institute of Hydrology	Brinke, Dr. Marvin	Germany
13	FP7 REFORM	Deltares	Buijse, Tom	the Netherlands
14	LIFE11ENV/IT/000243	Regione Emilia-Romagna - RII project	Cagianelli, Alfredo	Italy
15		LIFE Communication's team - NEEMO	Camarsa, Gabriella	Belgium
16	LIFE05 ENV/UK/000127	PCEU Consulting Ltd	Chapman, Paul	United Kingdom
17		Landesamt für Umwelt Brandenburg	Dammann, Annette	Germany
18		European Commission, DG ENV, LIFE unit	Delcueillerie, François	Belgium
19		Salmon Club, Luxemburg	Donven, Albert	Luxemburg
20	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	Esser, Prof. Dr. Birgit	Germany
21	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Feiler, Dr. Ute	Germany

22		International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine	Gangi, Laura	Germany
23		Wetland International	Griffin, Cy	the Netherlands
24	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt (Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency)	Hecht, Veronika	Germany
25		NEEMO Team	Heilmann, Diana	Hungary
26		Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt (Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency)	Heinz, Michael	Germany
27	LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857	natur&emwelt	Heumann, Sonja	Luxemburg
28	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Regionalstelle Wasserwirtschaft, Abfallwirtschaft, Bodenschutz Montabaur, Struktur- und Genehmigungsdirektion Nord	Hoffmann, Martin	Germany
29	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Regierungspräsidium Gießen	Höfner, Marlene	Germany
30	LIFE10 INF/SI/000135	Lutra Institute	Hönigsfeld, Marjana	Slovenia
31		Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW)	Huber, Dr Nils Peter	Germany
32		Katedra Ekologii Stosowanej, Uniwersytet Łódzki	Jurczak, Dr.Tomasz	Poland
33	LIFE08 ENV/PL/000517	Department of Applied Ecology, University of Lodz	Kaczkowski, Zbigniew	Poland
34	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	HMUKLV, Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz	Keitz, Dr. Stephan von	Germany
35		NEEMO Team	Kocsis-Kupper, Zsuzsanna	Hungary
36		Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde (BfG)	Kofalk, Dr. Sebastian	Germany
37		Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure	Köthe, Harald	Germany
38		ISKRIVA, Institute for Development of Local Potentials	Kozinc, Zdravko	Slovenia
39		Landesamt für Umwelt Brandenburg	Landgraf, Lukas	Germany
40	LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685	Acció Ecologista-Agró	Lassalle, Matthieu	Spain

41	LIFE14 IPE/FI/023	Metsähallitus Luontopalvelut	Louhi, Pauliina	Finland
42		Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde (BfG)	Leuchs, Dr.Heiko	Germany
43	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Waterways and Shipping Office Koblenz	Maltzan, Jens	Germany
44		European Commission, DG ENV	McCAMPHILL, Claire	Belgium
45		EASME	Mias, Solon	Belgium
46	LIFE11 NAT/LU/000857	natur&emwelt	Michels, Karin	Luxemburg
47	LIFE13 ENV/IT/000169	Consorzio di Bonifica dell'Emilia Centrale	Monaci, Marco	Italy
48	LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685	Acció Ecologista-Agró	Moreno Fernandez, Lucia	Spain
49	Integrated River Solutions in AT, application will be submitted in 2017	BMLFUW	Mühlmann, Helena	Austria
50	LIFE07 NAT/A/000012, LIFE10 NAT/AT/016	VERBUND Hydro Power GmbH	Oberlerchner, David	Austria
51	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt (Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency)	Osterthun, Dr.-lng. Manuela	Germany
52	LIFE13/NAT/HU388	Duna-Drava National Park Directorate, Hungary	Parrag, Tibor	Hungary
53	LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186	HAZI Foundation	Perez, Javier	Spain
54	LIFE13 ENV/ES/000341	Universitat de Barcelona, Dept BEECA	Prat, Narcís	Spain
55	LIFE13 ENV/IT/000169	Consorzio di Bonifica dell'Emilia Centrale	Ruffini, Aronne	Italy
56	LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115	Zeleni Osijek	Sadiković, Adela	Croatia
57	LIFE14 NAT/HR/000115	Zeleni Osijek	Sadiković, Jasmin	Croatia
58		North Atlantic Salmon Fund	Santini, Alessandro	Luxemburg
59	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Schleuter, Dr. Michael	Germany
60		Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)	Schröter, Dr. Barbara	Germany
61	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	WSA Koblenz	Schulze, Katrin	Germany
62	LIFE07 NAT/H/000320	WWF Hungary	Siposs, Viktória	Hungary

63	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Spira, Denise	Germany
64	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure	Steege, Volker	Germany
65		European Commission, DG ENV	Strasser, Christian	Belgium
66	LIFE15 IPE BE 014	Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij	Swenne, Stevie	Belgium
67	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Waterways and Shipping Office Koblenz	Teusch, Michaela	Germany
68	LIFE15 NAT/UK/000219	Severn Rivers Trust	Thorpe, Timothy	United Kingdom
69		NEEMO (Communications Team)	Toland, Justin	Belgium
70	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	blue! advancing european projects	Tupikin, Oleksii	Germany
71	LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	Vehanen, Teppo	Finland
72	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	HMUKLV - Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz	Weinig, Janet	Germany
73		Bundesumweltministerium	West, Martin	Germany
74		Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure	Wethmar, Silke	Germany
75		Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt (Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency)	Witte, Dr.-Ing Hans-Heinrich	Germany
76	LIFE14 NAT/DE/000278	H&S GbR	Zischka, Konstanze	Germany

ANNEX 3 FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

Summary of the evaluation forms' outcomes

In the frame of the meeting 76 participants were presented including 19 LIFE projects' representatives from 14 countries. Out of the 76 participants 38 experts, exactly half of the overall team filled the evaluation form on the second day during the field program. (It should be noted that less people (65 experts) participated on the second day, where the evaluation forms were circulated.)

Methodology

The evaluation forms were anonym.

The meeting participants gave their feedback related to the following points:

- **Site** (Location/Travel Distance; Food, Service, Meeting Room)
- **Plenary program** (content, topics, usefulness of information, networking possibilities)
- **Workshop program** (usefulness of information, networking possibilities, take home value, time provided for the discussion),
- **Field trip program** (content, usefulness of information, networking possibilities)

Outcomes of the evaluation

Feedback on usefulness of information and networking possibilities

To learn about LIFE project results/experiences as well as about lessons learnt and to exchange information has crucial importance in the LIFE Programme.

An important aspect of the evaluation was to assess the **usefulness of the information** received during the platform meeting. It can be summarised that 87-89% of the meeting participants considered excellent or good the usefulness of received information and 11-13% thought that it was fair. The Figure below shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the specific sessions of the meeting.

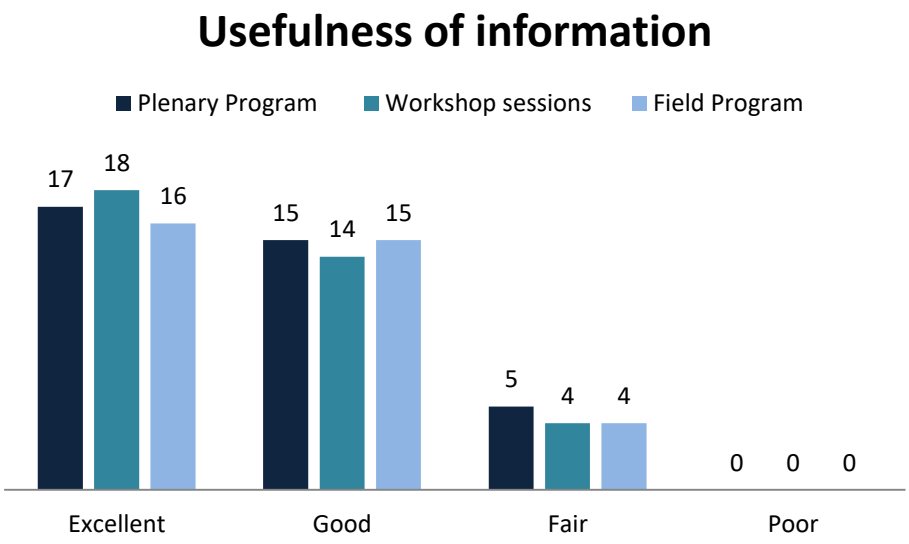


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the specific sessions of the meeting

Another important aspect of the evaluation was to get feedback on the **networking possibilities** of the specific sections of the platform meeting. The participants felt that the field program gave the best opportunity for networking (71% thought that it was excellent and 29% felt it was good) and high number of participants (64%) evaluated that the workshop can be also an excellent opportunity to exchange information. The Figure below shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the specific sessions of the meeting.

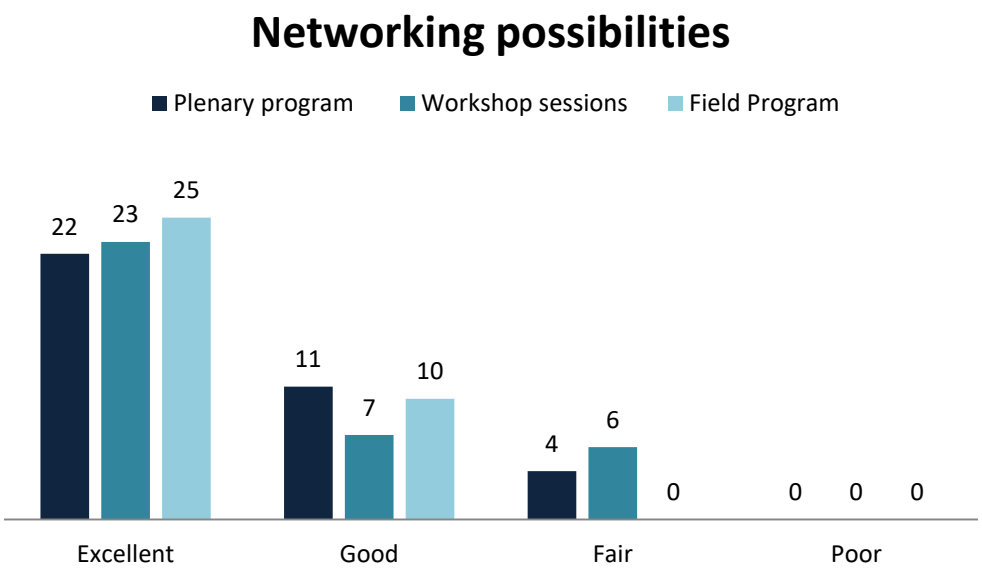


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the specific sessions of the meeting

Evaluation of the meeting site

In case of Site specific issues, the participants were requested to give feedback related to the Location/Travel Distance, Food, Service and Meeting Room.

Location/Travel Distance: Koblenz was not an easy-to-travel destination; however, there were suitable train/bus connections ensured from the surrounding airports (1-2 hours distances). Some problem occurred for the presenters, for whom the travel agency organised a hotel far away from the meeting and they needed to use taxi to reach the meeting on time. The travel agency also organised the trip for the main presenters of the meeting at the very last minutes, on the last working day prior travel which also caused some confusion and frustrations.

All in all, out of the 33 participants considered good or excellent the location/travel distance out of 38 and only one considered it poor.

Food: Food was excellent or good, some gourmets were, however hidden in the group. Evening dinner and bout-trip launch was highlighted by experts as special/excellent round of courses.

Services: participants (filling in the evaluation form) were all satisfied with the services and considered it good or excellent. One expert noted that organising team was great, friendly and very supportive.

Meeting room: Participants were satisfied with the meeting room facilities. Only one note arrived indicating that using dedicated event meeting spaces might be better in the future. WS2 room was only fair.

The outcomes of the evaluation can also be seen in the figure below, showing the number of scores from the participants in relation to the Site.

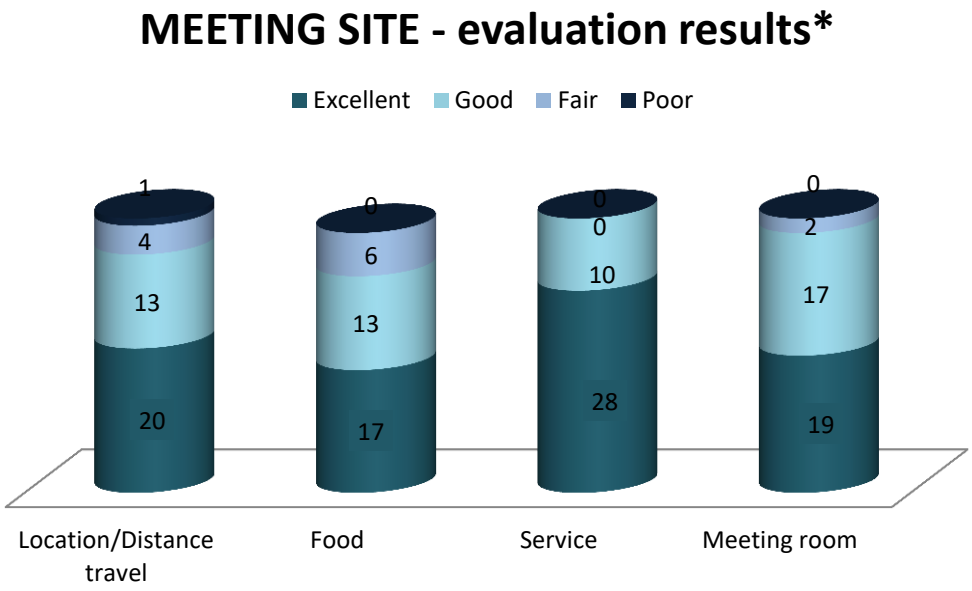


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the evaluation aspects of the meeting site

Evaluation of the Plenary Program

The participants were satisfied with both the program and topic of the plenary and in general they also considered excellent or good both the networking possibilities and usefulness of information. One evaluator noted that it was a bit pity that people spread out after the first day, prior dinner, which hardened the networking. It was also noted by an expert that networking cocktail or 'icebreaker' before meeting, dinner might be useful in the future and it was also suggested to give more focus on poster presentations. Audio techniques were sometimes not operating well, which spoiled one presentation.

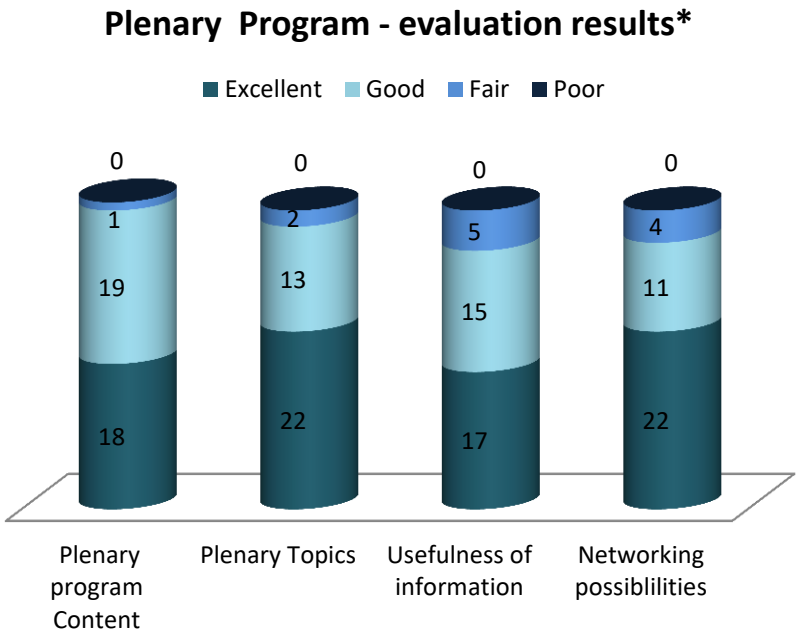


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the evaluation aspects of the plenary Program

Evaluation of the Workshop session

Three workshop sessions were organised in the frame of the platform meeting. The methods of the organisation of the workshops session were slightly different. In case WS1 next to the keynote presentations some additional presentations were also provided, which significantly shortened the discussion period. It was true also in case of WS3, where many projects were presented and it was noted that more time would be better for discussion. Smaller roundtable for all WS discussion would work better in the future, as was mentioned to the monitors.

In general, most evaluators indicated that time for WS discussion was appropriate, but several of them noted that more time for discussion might be useful in the future. One participant indicated that not all the projects could be shortly presented, which was a pity. Please note that separate WS evaluations are also presented in the report. Below the overall WS evaluation results are presented.

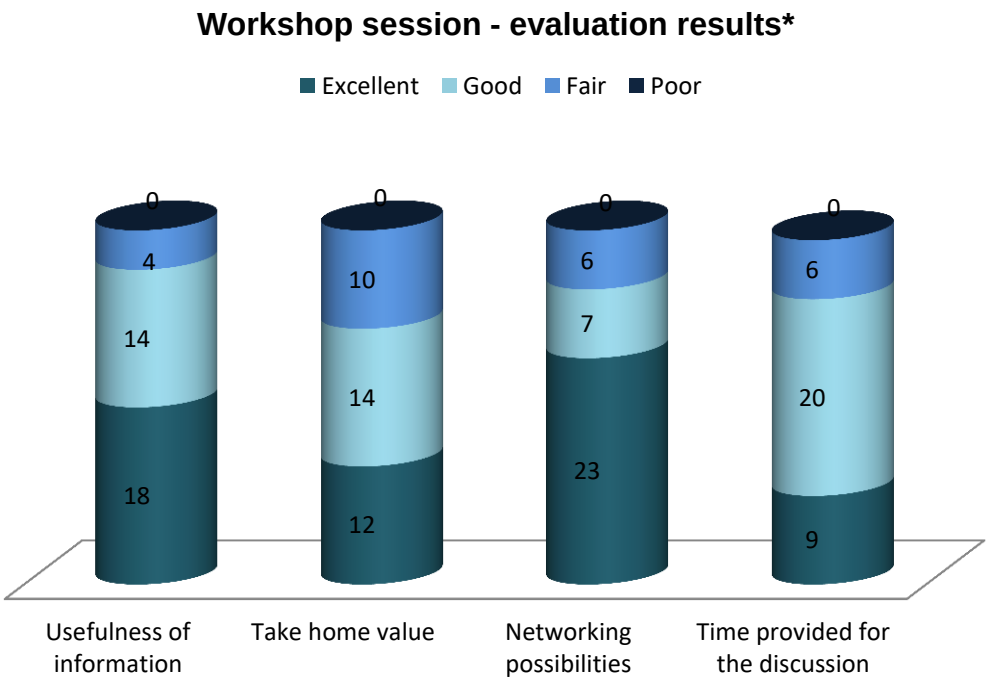


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the evaluation aspects of the workshop sessions

Evaluation of the Field trip program

The evaluation results show the general satisfaction of the participants. One expert, however indicated that he/she felt the field trip was like a touristic event rather than a useful occasion for work. It was also mentioned that more information on what Lahn project could implement and stakeholder concerns would have been also interesting. Since the audio equipment did not work properly during the boat trip a copy of the information on the oral presentations provided on the boat would be very useful. An expert also noted that it would have liked to have met some local water users on the boat trip.

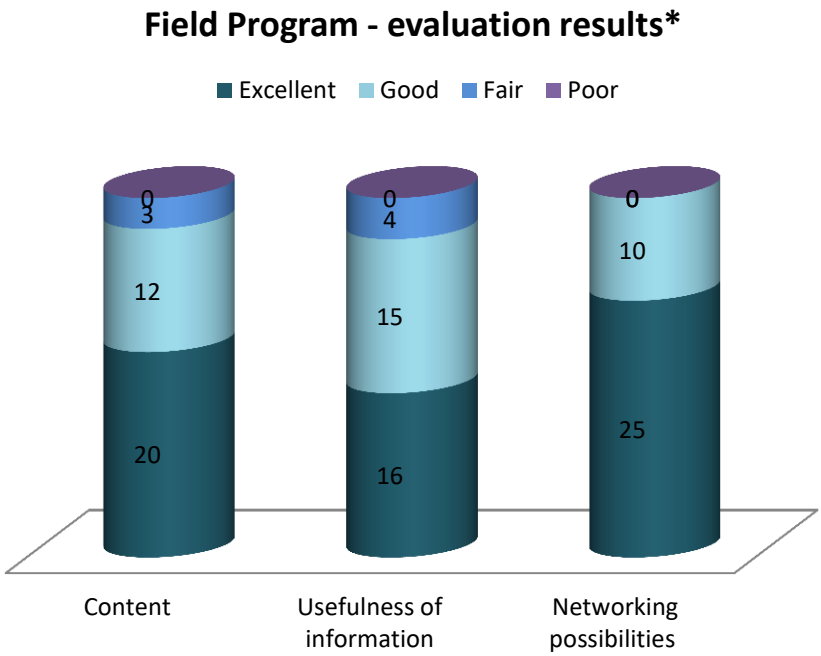


*Figure shows the number of scores from the participants in relation to the evaluation aspects of the Field Program.