

## International conference

“Let the waters flow: removal of dams, weirs and other obstacles for improvement of water quality and aquatic ecosystems in rivers”

20-21 September 2023 in Cēsis, Latvia

**Aim of the conference:** to talk about the implemented actions, plans and challenges for restoration of the natural flow of rivers in Latvia, to present the activities of the LIFE GoodWater IP as well to learn from good practices in other European countries. The conference is planned as face-to-face event.

## Draft Agenda

**Wednesday, 20 September 2023:** field trip in the Vidzeme region, the North-eastern part of Latvia to see the sites of where the removal of obstacles to fish migration are implemented or expected.

Time	Duration	
09:45-10:00		<b>Arrival &amp; welcome</b> <i>Address: address: Hotel “Cēsis” Vienības laukums 1, Cēsis, LV-4101, Latvia</i>
<b>10:00</b>		<b>Departure to the field trip by bus</b>
10:00-11:15	~1 h 15 min	Travel to the North-eastern part of Latvia
11:15-14:15	~2 hrs	<b>Guided field trip (Part I):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to the Grūbe hydropower plant on Vaidava river &amp; <b>short coffee break</b></li> <li>• Visit to the Karva hydropower plant and fish pass on Vaidava river</li> <li>• Visit to the recently removed Beja dam on the Alūksne river</li> </ul>
14:15-16:00	~1h 45 min	<b>Lunch break in Alūksne and short walk near the lake</b>
16:00–17:00	~1 h	<b>Continuation of the field trip (Part II):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to the Sothern part of Estonia and visit to the Vastse-Roosa hydropower plant and a fish pass constructed on the Vaidava river</li> </ul>
17:00-18:20	~1 h 20 min	Travel to Cēsis
<b>~ 18:20</b>		<b>Arrival in Cēsis</b>
18:30-20:00	~ 1,5 hrs	<b>Joint dinner at the Hotel Cēsis restaurant</b> <i>Address: Vienības laukums 1, Cēsis</i>
20:30-22:30	~ 2 hrs	<b>Social networking programme in the <a href="#">Art space MALA</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presentation of the film <a href="#">#DamBusters: The start of the Riverlution!</a></i></li> </ul> <i>Address: Lenču iela 11, Cēsis</i>



**Thursday, 21 September 2023**, conference in Cēsis Castle Complex - Exhibition hall

Address: Pils laukums 9, Cēsis, LV-4101, Latvia

9:00-9:30	30 min	<b>Arrival &amp; registration</b>
<b>SESSION I: Introduction</b>		
9:30-9:40	10 min	<b>Opening of the conference</b> <i>by Anda Ruskule, Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia</i>
9:40-10:00	20 min	<b>Introduction to the LIFE GoodWater IP project</b> and activities planned for reducing impacts of hydro- morphological modifications in rivers in Latvia <i>by Linda Fbīga, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center</i>
10:00-10:20	20 min	<b>EU policy context</b> for river restoration and improvement of ecological water quality <i>by Kristīna Veidemane, Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia</i>
10:20-10:50	30 min	<b>Introduction to an initiative of Dam Removal Europe</b> , recent activities to restore biodiversity of European Rivers and funding opportunities in the EU <i>by Herman Wanningen, World Fish Migration Foundation</i>
10:50-11:00	10 min	Questions and discussion
11:00-11:30	30 min	<b>Coffee/ tea</b>
<b>SESSION II: Various aspects for successful implementation of river ecosystems restoration projects</b>		
11:30-11:50	20 min	<b>Ecological aspects of river restoration:</b> prioritisation of sites for removal of obstacles to fish migration in Latvia <i>by Kaspars Abersons, Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR"</i>
11:50-12:10	20 min	<b>Socio-economic aspects of river restoration planning and implementation:</b> feasibility study for dam removal in Staicele, Salaca river and in Roja river, Latvia <i>by Isabelle Alten, World Fish Migration Foundation</i>
12:10-12:30	20 min	<b>Dam removal in legislative work:</b> case of Lithuania <i>by Jonė Leščinskaitė, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</i>
12:30-12:50	20 min	<b>Changes driven by local practical initiatives</b> to significantly improve the ecological status of the Lielā Jugla River or <i>Schrödinger's Dam</i> <i>by Mārtiņš Vimba, Jānis Apsis, Andrejs Gulbis, Association "Par lielu Lielo Juglu"</i>
12:50-13:00	10 min	<b>Questions and discussion</b>
13:00-14:30	1h 30 min	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>SESSION III: Good practice examples</b>		
14:30-16:00	1h 30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ecostreams for LIFE</b> experience with removing migration barriers built during the flotation era on smaller waterways <i>by Oscar Lundgren, County administration board of Västerbotten, Sweden</i></li> <li><b>Ambitious dam removal projects in Finland</b> <i>by Jenny Jyrkänkallio-Mikkola, WWF-Finland</i></li> <li><b>Implementation of the river connectivity projects in Lithuania</b> <i>by Antanas Kubilius, Žemaitija protected areas directorate</i></li> <li><b>LIFE IP CleanEST project practices of migration barriers in North-East Estonia</b> <i>by Annabel Runnel, Estonian Environment Agency</i></li> </ul>
16:00-16:20	20 min	<b>Coffee/ tea</b>
16:20-17:00	40 min	Panel discussion
17:00-17:20	20 min	Open floor for announcements by participants on future events, etc.
~17:20-17:30	10 min	<b>Closing of the event</b>

The integrated project "Implementation of River Basin Management Plans of Latvia towards good surface water status" (LIFE GOODWATER IP, LIFE18 IPE/LV/000014) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the State Regional Development Agency. [www.goodwater.lv](http://www.goodwater.lv)

The information reflects only the LIFE GOODWATER IP project beneficiaries' view, and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.