

Selection of Demonstration Sites

NB: It is expected that several BR beneficiaries will work at each Demo Site, but that ONE beneficiary will act as the main point of contact at each site

Consider these **criteria** for selecting potential Demonstration Sites

1. Restoration must take place during the duration of the call (2022-2025) (but can extend further)
2. There is additional (match) funding
3. It has high visibility & impact
4. It involves several stakeholders (e.g. Industry, Municipalities, NGOs, River Basin Managers, etc.)
5. You have freedom to operate (permits, land access)
6. It is aligned with BR vision (reward the effort) and is representative of our Five River Types (see below)
7. Lessons can be scaled (Upscaling)
8. It demonstrates the application of Nature Based Solutions (NBS)
9. It demonstrates the use of BEST PRACTICES and/or new technologies
10. It will be possible to assess the benefits of restoration (i.e. baseline data i.e. BEFORE the restoration - are available; ideally it is matched with a control site for a Before-After-Control -Impact (BACI) design
11. Bonus: The restoration site affects more than one country

Five River Types:

1. Free-Flowing Rivers

Free-Flowing Rivers represent the best exemplars of relatively pristine, unaltered rivers in Europe, those that need to be preserved as examples of river integrity. They serve as baselines and reference points for what natural rivers look like and the ecosystem services that they can provide to society. They will help to form a network of National Fluvial Reserves across Europe. The strategy on these rivers is to delineate them, to give them full protection and to develop robust monitoring plans to ensure they do not degrade, perhaps aided by small scale actions as needed. To achieve more free-flowing rivers in Europe a two-prong approach is proposed: (1) to halt further fragmentation, and (2) to restore connectivity.

2. Heritage Rivers

Heritage Rivers represent the best exemplars of rivers that have helped shape the history of Europe, those that constitute part of the continent's cultural heritage and provide good examples of river culture, crafts and legacy. They will help to form a network of Water River Museums across Europe. Planned work on these rivers is to document and illustrate traditional craftsmanship and to showcase our river culture, to ensure it is properly recorded and maintained. The strategy here would involve mostly reclamation and rehabilitation.

3. Working Rivers

Working Rivers are rivers used for the generation of energy (hydropower), to irrigate fields, provide water to cities, protect people from floods, or transport goods. They provide essential provisioning services to society, but often at the expense of losing on other ES, like biodiversity. The proposed recovery strategy here is to maximise provisioning services and reduce environmental impacts. It is recognised that these rivers can never be fully restored to a natural state, so the strategy here will typically involve reclamation and remediation.

4. Wonder Rivers

Wonder Rivers are fun rivers, used for sport, discovery and leisure. These are rivers used by kayakers, rafters, anglers, cyclers, walkers, and activity tourists. They provide essential cultural services to society, but need better accesses, marketing and governance to resolve conflict. The proposed recovery strategy here is to maximise access by citizens (e.g. river trails) and to map and manage conflict over competing uses (e.g. canoeing vs. angling vs. nature).

5. Urban Rivers

Approximately 74% of Europeans already live in urban areas (compared to 54% worldwide; Statistica, 2020), more than ever before, and this is set to increase. This means that for most people city rivers are the only rivers they can have easy access to. But city rivers are also the most degraded. They have been polluted, channelised, buried, dried, and cemented in equal measure. We believe that Urban Rivers can be rehabilitated and can play a vital role in the regeneration of Green Cities across Europe, with tangible benefits for the health and wellbeing of city dwellers.