

*Restoration of the Danube River Basin for ecosystems  
and people from mountains to coast*



# WP2 / Reconnect Rivers, Floodplains and Delta

Relevance with the Horizon project Danube 4 All

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27.06.2023



Funded by  
the European Union



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# Free-flowing river

## Definition?

"The 25 000 km of free-flowing rivers is intuitively easy to understand: it suggests rivers (and lakes) in a natural state, undisturbed in their natural functions, unhindered by artificial barriers."

"However, there is **no established consensus as to what criteria would define a free-flowing river** that could count towards the EU target. Similarly, a ready-to-use indicator to measure free-flowing rivers currently does not exist."



Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Barrier Removal for River Restoration



# Summary on EU legislations

	Longitudinal	Lateral	Vertical	Temporal	Flow	Sediment	Biota	Physico-chemical	Nutrients
Water Framework Directive	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Flood Directive	X	X			X	X			
Birds and Habitat Directive		X					X		
Integrated sediment management for WFD	X	X				X			
ICPDR Management Plan 2021 update	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
EU Strategy for Danube basin	X	X			X	X	X		
CEN standard for water quality	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Riparian Forest Corridor		X					X	X	
Dry Habitat strategy		X			X		X		
Biodiversity Strategy	X	X			X	X	X		
Nature Restoration Law	X	X			X	X	X		



# ECRR report relevance for D4A

## Gap-filling report

- National policies are difficult to track on
- Pragmatic overview of legislative conditions and tools for adequate river continuity restoration
  - Advanced frameworks could be shown/used as best practices to engage other countries
  - Ease part of our tasks in D4A (available national databases, guidance, monitoring, among others)
- Out of the 19 countries from the Danube basin 4 provided input to the report:
  - Austria,
  - Germany,
  - North Macedonia,
  - Slovakia.

Importance of transparent policy practices on a national level!







Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under Grant Agreement No. 101093985



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**RESTORE OUR OCEANS & WATERS**

**Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges**

# Thank you!

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