

From vision to implementation of river restoration  
in the  
UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve  
Mura-Drava-Danube  
(TBR MDD)



The international DRAVA LIFE  
final Symposium

21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Varaždin, Croatia





**DRAVA**  
**LIFE**  
integrated river management



Project „DRAVA LIFE“ is co-funded by the European Union  
Project number: LIFE14NAT/HR/000115 - DRAVA LIFE

## GOAL

The international DRAVA LIFE Symposium aims to foster the exchange of know-how on river restoration projects within the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube (TBR MDD) between Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia. Project partners, river restoration experts and stakeholders from all five countries will discuss the status quo and the need for a healthy river ecosystem within the TBR MDD – now and in the future. They will also discuss how river restoration in the TBR MDD will contribute to the ambitious goals of the new EU Nature Restoration Law. A special focus will be on a transboundary and basin-wide approach for sediment management, as the DRAVA LIFE Symposium will also serve as a kick-off for the Sediment Stakeholder Dialogue within the EU LIFE RESTORE for MDD project.

The TBR MDD serves as an international platform for cooperation in the implementation of harmonised and integrated river management, nature conservation and sustainable use in the region.

## LANGUAGE

The symposium will be held in English.

## DATES

Arrival day: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October

Day II: Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October between 9:30 – 17:00 (registration starts at 8:30 am)

Day III: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October between 9:00 - 16:00 (registration starts at 8:30 am)

Day IV: Excursion: Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October between 8:30 – 15:30

## VENUE

City Museum Varaždin; Herzer Palace, Franjevački trg 10; [www.gmv.hr](http://www.gmv.hr)



## PARKING

Please note that the Symposium venue "Herzer Palace" is located in the pedestrian zone of the city centre.

For those arriving by car, we recommend **parking at your hotels** or **in the nearby car park** Kapucinski trg 5: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Kf5u3NnyEoysreA28>

Otherwise, **short term parking** is available all around the city centre. We recommend the yellow zone, where parking is not limited (in the red zone the maximum is two hours). Payment can be made at the parking machine or by app - all instructions can be found on the zone signs or parking machines. Only paid parking is available in the city centre from 8 - 20 h on weekdays.

## WHAT TO BRING

- You are welcome to bring **your information material** about your project and initiatives, but please note that **space is limited**.
- There is **no need to print the agenda** as all participants will receive it with their Symposium bags.
- Those taking part in the **excursion: bring waterproof shoes and warm/rainproof clothing**. We will be walking along Drava River and restoration sites, so please be prepared to get muddy.
- Last but not least: bring your enthusiasm for river restoration and transboundary cooperation, and your dancing shoes for the DRAVA LIFE farewell party!

## CONTACTS

If you get lost, miss the bus or need any urgent information, please call:

**Ms Aleksandra Uhernik Đurđek** – Event Manager of ProConventa – Tel: +385 914220301

**Ms Tina Dunjić Messmer** – Programme Coordinator ProConventa – Tel. +385 91 5728 787

or

**Ms Tanja Nikowitz** – DRAVA LIFE Symposium Organiser – Tel: +43 676 83488 219



## AGENDA\* OF THE SYMPOSIUM

\*Subject to change

<b>Arrival Day: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>		
<b>16:30 – 18:30</b>		
- <b>Arrival of participants</b>		
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Guided walking tour of Varaždin</b> (app. 2 hrs) from City Museum Varaždin; Herzer Palace, Franjevački trg 10; <a href="http://www.gmv.hr">www.gmv.hr</a>	<b>Ivana Žnidarić Kajić</b> (Certified tour guide)
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Welcome dinner at Restaurant Domenico</b> , Trg Slobode 7, 42000 Varaždin,	<i>Self-paid; optional</i>
- <b>Open End</b>		



<b>DAY II: Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024</b>		
<b>9:30 – 17:00</b>		
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Arrival of participants and registration; Welcome coffee</b>	
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Opening and welcoming words</b>	<p><b>Mišel Jelić</b>, Curator of the natural history department in the City Museum Varaždin</p> <p><b>Slađana Miočić</b>, Head of the Department of Economic Affairs, City of Varaždin</p> <p><b>Anđelko Stričak</b>, the prefect of Varaždin County, t.b.c.</p> <p><b>Igor Kreitmayer</b>, Director of the Nature Protection Directorate in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition</p> <p><b>Milan Rezo</b>, Director of the Water Management Department for Mura and Upper Drava</p> <p><b>Nataša Kalauz</b>, CEO of WWF Adria</p>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>KEYNOTE I</b> <b>EU Nature Restoration Law and new chances for Europe’s rivers and floodplain forests – an EU perspective</b>	<b>Frank Vassen</b> , European Commission, DG Environment online
<b>10:15</b>	<b>KEYNOTE II</b> <b>UNESCO 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube – Saving the “Amazon of Europe”</b>	<b>Arno Mohl</b> , WWF-AT

SESSION 1: River and wetland restoration in TBR MDD		
10:30	<b>DRAVA LIFE</b> – 9 years towards Integrated River Management – a Résumé <i>Croatia</i>	<b>Igor Tošić</b> , Croatian Waters <b>Jasmin Sadiković</b> , Green Osijek
11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b> Possibility to visit the museum and the posters during the break <i>Painting Drava stones with your wishes, drawings or concerns</i>	
11:30	<b>WISEDRAVA LIFE</b> – Conservation of Riverine and Floodplain Habitats along the Drava River <i>Hungary-Croatia</i>	<b>Zoltán Barina</b> , WWF-HU
11:45	<b>Wetland Restoration in Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve</b> and other projects along the Danube floodplains <i>Serbia</i>	<b>Ivana Vasić</b> , Public Enterprise Vojvodinašume
12:00	<b>Natura Mura</b> – River and Floodplain Restoration <i>Slovenia</i>	<b>Aleksander Koren</b> , IRSNC
12:15	<b>River Restoration projects in Sieldorf and Gosdorf</b> at Mura River (Interreg) <i>Austria</i>	<b>Tanja Schriebl</b> , Province of Styria
12:30	<b>LIFE RESTORE for MDD – Five years for Nature Conservation</b> – a joint initiative to preserve and restore the largest contiguous riparian forests in the UNESCO Five-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube	<b>Lisa Wolf</b> , WWF-AT
12:45	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Lessons learned from river restoration in TBR MDD; how to support each other and cooperate in the future	<i>Speakers from presentations in the session and keynote II</i>
13:30	<b>Lunch at Restoran Verglec</b> , Ulica Silvija Strahimira Kranjčevića 14 Coffee & sweets await you at Palace Herzer <i>Painting Drava stones with your wishes, drawings or concerns</i>	



# DRAVA LIFE

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SESSION 2: Kick-off Sediment Dialogue in TBR MDD		
14:45	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Sediment management – challenges and opportunities on Mura, Drava and Danube	<i>Helmut Habersack, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences</i>
15:15	<b>Practical examples: Management plan Grenzmur (Go Mura) and River Restoration Toolbox (LifelineMDD)</b>	<i>Stephan Senfter, Revital</i>
15:40	<b>Kick-off and introduction to the Sediment Dialogue (LIFE RESTORE for MDD)</b>	<i>Tamás Gruber, WWF-HU</i>
15:55	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> How to improve sediment management in the TBR MDD	<i>Speakers of presentations in the session; Igor Tošić, Croatian Waters</i>
16:55	<b>Closing and outlook for the evening programme &amp; Day III</b>	<i>By WWF-AT &amp; facilitator</i>
17:00	<b>Break</b>	
<b>EVENING PROGRAMME at Park Boutique Hotel, Ul. J. Habelića 6</b>		
19:00	<b>Reception &amp; Aperitif</b>	
19:10	<b>FILM PRESENTATION</b> "DRAVA LIFE – New Life for Drava"	<i>with presence of the filmmakers Goran Šafarek and Diana Bartolić</i>
19:45	<b>BOOK PRESENTATION</b> "DRAVA - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"	<i>with presence of the book author Goran Šafarek and contributing authors Zdenko Kereša, Igor Tošić and Arno Mohl</i>
20:00	<b>Dinner Buffet</b> <i>Book-signing is possible during the dinner</i>	





<b>Day III: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024</b>		
<b>9:00 – 16:00</b>		
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Arrival of participants and check-in</b>	
<b>SESSION 3: Ambassadors of dynamic rivers – re-introduction of riverine plants, habitat management of riverine birds and fish ecological monitoring</b>		
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Successes and challenges in reintroducing riverine plants in Europe</b>	<b>Gregory Egger, Aueninstitut – KIT/ Naturraumplanung Egger</b>
<b>9:15</b>	<b>Re-introduction of Dwarf cattail (<i>T. minima</i>) and German tamarisk (<i>M. germanica</i>) on Drava within the DRAVA LIFE project</b>	<b>Dragica Purger, University of Pécs</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Monitoring of gravel and steep bank breeders within the TBR MDD and population trends of river birds</b>	<b>Ivan Darko Grlica &amp; Ivan Grlica, PD Drava</b>
<b>9:45</b>	<b>Challenges for Little tern and Common tern on Drava and other rivers</b>	<b>Veronika Lončar, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Requirements and possibilities of fish ecological monitoring as an instrument for evaluating the success of river restoration measures</b>	<b>Gerald Zauner, ezb</b>
<b>10:15</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Lessons learned and success factors for the survival of riverine plants, birds and fish in the TBR MDD	<i>Speakers of presentations in the session and</i> <b>Tibor Mikuška, CSBNP</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b> Possibility to visit the museum and the posters during the break <i>Painting Drava stones with your wishes, drawings or concerns</i>	
<b>SESSION 4: International perspectives on European rivers</b>		
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Balkan Rivers – Saving the Blue Heart of Europe</b>	<b>Ulrich Eichelmann, Riverwatch</b>
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Nature-based solutions on large rivers (examples: Alpine Rhine, Sava and Lech)</b>	<b>Klaus Michor, Revital</b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Large-scale dike relocations on the River Elbe in Germany - from concept to implementation; achievements and outlook</b>	<b>Georg Rast, River Management Expert</b>





12:15	<b>River restoration and natural floodplain management by grazing on Morava River (Austria/Slovakia)</b>	<i>Jurrien Westerhof, WWF-AT</i>
12:30	<b>Integrative river restoration projects on the Danube in Austria (East of Vienna and in Wachau)</b>	<i>Ursula Scheiblechner, viadonau</i>
12:45	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> What are the key success factors for river restoration?	<i>Speakers of presentations in the session</i>
13:30	<b>Coffee and lunch snack at meeting venue</b> Possibility to visit the museum and the posters during the break <i>Painting Drava stones with your wishes, drawings or concerns</i>	
<b>SESSION 5: Vision and future of river restoration in the TBR MDD</b>		
14:30	<b>Summary – lessons learnt and key success factors</b>	<i>WWF-AT &amp; Facilitator</i>
14:45	<b>From Vision to Implementation: River Restoration in the TBR MDD</b>	<i>All</i>
15:45	<b>Information</b> about the evening programme and the excursion on Day IV	<i>WWF-AT &amp; Facilitator</i>
16:00	<b>Break</b>	
<b>EVENING PROGRAMME</b> in the wine hills		
17:00	<b>Travel by bus to Restoran Zlatne Gorice</b> in the wine hills (Banjščina 104, Varaždin Breg, 42204 Turčin) <b>Meeting point for bus ride:</b> Bus station near the Railway Station (opposite of hotel Varaždin): <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/4rkw1Z3EUf8h88H16">https://maps.app.goo.gl/4rkw1Z3EUf8h88H16</a>	
17:30	<b>Walk in the wine hills, visit of the wine cellar and tasting of local wine</b>	
19:00	<b>Dinner and DRAVA LIFE farewell party</b> with traditional music (“Tamburica” band) & DJ	
-	<b>Open End</b> (Bus transport back to Varaždin is possible after dinner and later)	



Day IV; Excursion*: Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 8:30 – 14:00		
8:30	<p>Departure of the excursion from Varaždin</p> <p><b>Meeting point for the bus ride:</b> bus station near the train station (opposite the Varaždin hotel): <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/4rkW1Z3EUf8h88H16">https://maps.app.goo.gl/4rkW1Z3EUf8h88H16</a></p>	
8:45	<p>Nature info points on Stara Drava, Varaždin</p> <p>View of the future side arm restoration site C.2</p> <p><b>Meeting point/ bus stop:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/CW3rnpHWe3Mr7Lte9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/CW3rnpHWe3Mr7Lte9</a></p>	<p>By JU ZDP VŽ</p> <p>By Croatian Waters</p>
9:45	<p>For those who do not wish to return to Varaždin after lunch there is a possibility to <b>park cars in Legrad until lunch:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/kaoFgxO8dCRif1RF7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/kaoFgxO8dCRif1RF7</a></p>	
9:50	<p>Coffee &amp; toilet break at the Croatian Waters “Educational water centre”</p> <p><b>Meeting point/ bus stop:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/CW3rnpHWe3Mr7Lte9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/CW3rnpHWe3Mr7Lte9</a></p>	
10:15	<p>Introduction to the excursion and film/photos of the restoration sites at the Croatian Waters “Educational water centre”</p>	By Croatian Waters
11:00	<p>Mura Drava confluence and educational path/activities (Legrad Municipality)</p> <p><i>Returning Drava stones to the river with your wishes, drawings or concerns</i></p> <p><b>Meeting point/ bus stop:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/i5uHUebiCUKEvL6P9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/i5uHUebiCUKEvL6P9</a></p> <p>Steep bank at Libanovec (Đelekovec municipality)</p> <p><b>Meeting point/ bus stop:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/YPbpVLfuCsDLfvfE9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/YPbpVLfuCsDLfvfE9</a></p>	<p>By JUZPVKKZ; JU VPŽ, Green Osijek</p> <p>By Croatian Waters; WWF-AT</p>



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12:30	Initial channel at Gabajeva Greda	<i>By Croatian Waters</i>
	<b>Meeting point/ bus stop:</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/1irA4A1NDoB3sGjv7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/1irA4A1NDoB3sGjv7</a>	
14:00	Lunch at Restoran Fakin, Trg Sv. Trojstva 53, 48317, Legrad	
15:30	Official end / departure	
16:30	Arrival in Varaždin (for those who have their cars there or stay another night)	

\*Subject to change: the excursion programme might be adapted according to weather conditions and water levels

## NOTE

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

