

**PromoRiver:** an opportunity for promoting employment and local sustainable development



A Grundtvig Partnerships project

**Newsletter 2**  
November 2014

## FOREWORD

**PromoRiver:** an opportunity for promoting employment and local sustainable development has come to the first half of its lifespan. A group of 5 European partners have found in this project a means to promote their concern for the rivers in their own countries and all over Europe, and took the opportunity to share ideas, actions and good practices regarding rivers, an important resource that has to be preserved and cared for.

This second issue of newsletter brings information about events taking place from July 2013 up to date. Lot happens – workshops, field work, conferences and seminars and meetings. Enjoy and help to keep and improve state of rivers – these most important inland ecosystems!

## Return

A little too abstract, a little too wise,  
It is time for us to kiss the earth again,  
It is time to let the leaves rain from the skies,  
Let the rich life run to the roots again.  
I will go to the lovely Sur Rivers  
And dip my arms in them up to the shoulders.  
I will find my accounting where the alder leaf quivers  
In the ocean wind over the river boulders.  
I will touch things and things and no more thoughts,  
That breed like mouthless May-flies darkening the sky,  
The insect clouds that blind our passionate hawks  
So that they cannot strike, hardly can fly.  
Things are the hawk's food and noble is the mountain,  
Oh noble  
Pico Blanco, steep sea-wave of marble.  
*Robinson Jeffers, 1935*

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Big Sur river, California, U.S.

# PromoRiver: an opportunity for promoting employment and local sustainable development

From Czech Republic

## Adoption of Rivers

Two more streams were adopted lately, both in Prague.

Klíčovský potok (picture on the left) is now taken care of two local NGOs, associations, Zvonečník and Krocan. In their first meeting in the field, they cleaned two of five pools, which are located in the old orchard and created a refuge for amphibians and other water animals. Without help, these pools would soon disappear under sediments.



Creating pools alongside Klíčovský potok



New meanders in Prosecký potok



Meeting of volutaries from British Council at Prosecký potok

## Meeting of PromoRivers partners in Prague

Representatives of all partner organisation met in September for for-days meeting in Prague. Days full of planning, excursions to river restoration projects, example of educational workshop and sightseeing to historical places connected with Vltava river ran quickly.

Participants had also an opportunity to see and discuss results of progressive river restoration projects implemented by City of Prague on the territory of the caipitol



## Conference River Landscape 2014 in Brno

Traditional conference River Landscape was held in Brno on 15-17 October, 2014. The conference (organized for 10<sup>th</sup> time) promotes the view, that we cannot see river and surrounding landscape as a two separate things – it is actually one interconnected whole. Two days of lectures and one-day excursion was this year attended by 65 participants – scientists, hydro-technicians, landscape designers, conservationists and landowners. Part of the conference was also a demonstration of educational model of natural and heavily-modified floodplain (based on sections of Luznice river).



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From Greece

October 2014

## “The Secrets of the Wetland” workshop

To honor the European Bird Watch members of “Varosi”, “Caretakers Greece” and “neoSOS”, gathered on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (please see the attached activity form) at the Agras-Vryta-Nisi wetland (in total around 25 people, ten of them under the age of 18) and enthusiastically participated at a boat trip, during which the importance of the wetland and its preservation for the sake of ecosystems was highlighted and different kinds of endemic species of birds were identified. A brief introduction preceded the actual boat trip and prepared the participants for what would follow.



Among the various activities of the Conference, a night stroll by the rivers of the town will take place on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014**. The aim of this activity will be to familiarize the participants with water and river Edessa, the most important element and fundamental part of the identity of our town, due to its strong affinity with the elements of environment, society, economy and culture. The participants will have the opportunity to wander by the river walkways and seeing different aspects of our town. Members and friends of “Varosi” organization will actively participate at the event, while trainers of our group will contribute with interesting bits of information about what can be seen.

More information about the conference can be found here: <http://www.cesh-site.eu/>



## November 2014

### Land art Workshop

“Varosi”, “neoSOS” and “Caretakers Greece” are organizing a creative workshop on land art at the Waterfalls Park on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014**. We will gather autumn leaves and other natural items (stones, tree branches, soil etc.) and will let our imagination and creative spirit free to decorate naturally the surrounding river areas. Land art is a form of art which occurred in the nature.



## Participation in the XVIII European Committee for Sport History - International Congress 2014

The conference will take place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October at Edessa (Waterfalls Park, Open air Water Museum), a town 3000 years of age, Ancient, Byzantine and Industrial History, standing on the crossroad between the East and the West through Egnatia Highway.

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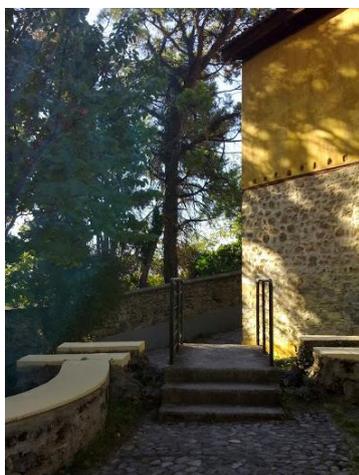
### December 2014

#### 1-day workshop on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2014

Members and friends of “Varosi”, “neoSOS” and “Caretakers Greece”, in collaboration with the “Center for Environmental Education of Edessa” (KPE Edessas), together with the “Directorate of Primary Education of Pella”, and the participation of teachers of environmental education and their classes of students.

The aim of this workshop will be to familiarize its members with the industrial past of the town, the utilization of water force as source of energy, the identification and ranking of trees and other species of flora of the surrounding area.

The **theoretical** part will include a video and slide projection which will travel the participants in the trail of water (teachers, students and members of the participating organizations). The **experiential** part of the workshop will include a Treasure Hunt, by groups of participants equipped with the suitable equipment to achieve their goals (map of the area, identification sheets of the species to be found, other useful information sheets). The hunt goes on step-by-step and the participants are guided to achieve the aim, through riddles and other playful activities.



From Italy

#### A set of programmes for EXPO2015

In view of Expo 2015, the Universal Exposition to be held in Milan from May 1 to October 31, 2015, the Eastern Veneto has planned a system of cultural and gastronomic itineraries that from the Pavilion Venice Unesco, through the Inland Waterway, reaching the Eastern Venice where it is possible to taste the typical products of the Food Park, visit the historical towns and attend cultural events and fashion shows and Haute Couture "Made In Italy".

The overall coordination of the activity is done by a technical working group composed of VEGAL (as leader), the International Centre Civilization water and Studio Terra srl.



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They have identified three priority themes:

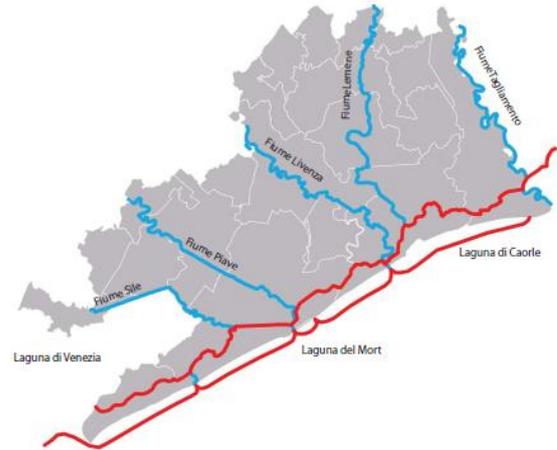
the waterways, in accordance with the theme "Water and Earth" chosen by the committee Venice Expo;

the park of food and wine, in accord with the theme "Expo Milano" Feeding the planet, energy for life";

the historical centers.

The key actions concerning collaboration with the Expo UNESCO Venice Pavilion for the promotion of inland waterways, for the transfer of tourists from the historic center of Venice East Venice, sailing along the waterway "Litornea Veneta" that consists of an incredible net of canals connecting through the internal waters, the Po with the lagoon of Venice until Trieste and along the coast line; using the system of the Park's food Eastern Venice that aims to create a net of producers; creating packages for tourism related to fashion, design, wellness, cultural and natural heritage, traditions and landscape; the organization of demonstrations and food and wine events with the involvement of local authorities, institutions and organizations; the promotion of tourism proposals and visit the Eastern Venice, by multilingual web portal; App for "Android" and "Apple"; events before expo; advertising on television and newspaper articles.

These activities will be implemented through a network of local business and institutional quality, which will support the project technically and economically.



RIVERS of Eastern VENICE (blu lines) - Water way and coastal line (red lines)



### Botanical treasure hunt

One of the first steps to discover and understand biodiversity is to recognize the organisms that surround us, to give them a NAME.

Today information technology allows us to easily find out the name of a plant, an animal or a fungus. Project SiiT provides schools, amateurs and citizens with interactive guides customized to their needs (eg. to trees, butterflies, fish).

SiiT is funded under the Interreg program Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013, the European Regional Development Fund and national funds.

With the help of these interactive guides and these APP is it possible for anyone to know the name of a tree, a butterfly, a fish, a marine organism and then approach with greater enthusiasm to nature and biodiversity that meeting along our rivers, our public parks, on our beaches and in our mountains or hills.



# PromoRiver: an opportunity for promoting employment and local sustainable development

From Portugal



## EARTH CHARTER PRINCIPLES & PROMORIVER

“The Earth Charter was created by the independent Earth Charter Commission, which was convened as a follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit in order to produce a global consensus statement of values and principles for a sustainable future. The document was developed over nearly a decade through an extensive process of international consultation, to which over five thousand people contributed. The Charter has been formally endorsed by thousands of organizations, including UNESCO and the IUCN (World Conservation Union).

The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.

What is the Earth Charter?

The Earth Charter is centrally concerned with the transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development. Ecological integrity is one major theme. However, the Earth Charter recognizes that the goals of ecological protection, the eradication of poverty, equitable economic development, respect for human rights, democracy, and peace are interdependent and indivisible. It provides, therefore, a new, inclusive, integrated ethical framework to guide the transition to a sustainable future.”

From the 16 principles of the Earth Charter we chose those which will support the areas of work of our PROMORIVER project.

### I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

2. a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people. – *Rivers conservation + Public participation*

4.b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities. – *Art and culture along rivers*

### II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life. – *Rivers conservation + Rivers monitoring*

6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach. – *Rivers conservation + Rivers monitoring*

8.b. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being. – *Rivers conservation + Art and culture along rivers*

### IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

13.f. Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively. – *Public participation*

14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life. – *Rivers conservation + Public participation*



The PROMORIVER project was presented to a group of participants of the I Regional Seminar on Environmental Education of ASPEA – Portuguese Association for Environmental Education which took place in Viseu, for 2 days, 10-11 September.

This seminar was the closure of RiocEAnos project (From Rivers to Oceans: pathways through many stories) that ASPEA has coordinated during 2014.



The educational proposal of the project “From Rivers to Oceans: pathways through many stories” has covered the themes of water, rivers, seas and oceans, fitting in the theme “European Union: Sustainable use of Natural Resources”. The project allowed, amongst others: the exploration of content related to climate change and energy sustainability; biodiversity and ecological equilibrium in aquatic environments; impacts of pollution in rivers, seas and oceans; the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste. The target group for this project was mainly the educational community, however, globally it has included the entire population. The main aim was to train and empower citizens, making them active agents, committed to a paradigm shift that will result in a new attitude regarding the environment and reinforce the role of Environmental Education in European environmental policy.

The project has planned the following **initiatives**, using the theme “European Union: Sustainable use of Natural Resources” as a basis. This was complemented by activity proposals with reference to strategic documents and environment related European policy (water, rivers and oceans), such as: cultural activities and artistic events, First National Children and Youth Conference for the environment, competitions and exhibitions, National Environmental Education Meeting – “riocEAnos Fest” Space, organisation of a 25 hour training course for teachers, sharing of experiences and projects and lectures and workshops on themes related to water, rivers and oceans. As PROMORIVER this project has promoted the conservation and protection of the Portuguese Rivers and all the initiatives were very well accepted by the different target groups.

## From Turkey

### RESEARCHING ABOUT FLOODING IN EDIRNE

#### Edirne/Turkey

River flooding is continuing in Edirne. Edirne, which was located on a very important area with three rivers crossing, face to river flooding on October in 2014, again.

In these days, Edirne has been influenced of the cold and rainy weather which has come from the Balkans. The weather temperature is about 4 Centigrade Degrees. In the last three days, because of the rainy weather in both Bulgaria and the city center, the flow rates doubled in Meric and Tunca Rivers. According to the informations of the DSI 11st Region Management, the flow rate was about 335 cubic meters in the previous day for Meric River, but today it is currently about 961 cubic meters. Edirne Municipality and DSI Region Management has warned people and owners especially who lives near the rivers.

Ali Dursun Sahin, the governor of Edirne, explained that the water did not reach the border of danger yet and the city has been ready for any inconvenience situations. Sahin, "For now, everything has been under the control. The flow rate of Meric River has been raising, the rate in Svilengrad/Bulgaria is about 919 cubic meters. The water takes 18-24 hours to come here. It should be 1300 cubic meters to be dangerous. Therefore, there is not a big problem for our city. Except for these, there are some islets on Meric River. Trees on the islets should be ripped off. We have signed some agreements about these issues. We will also solve these problems."

#### THE RIVER BEGAN TO ENTER

Owing to reaching the flow rate of Meric River over than 900 cubic meters, the Protokol House belongs to Edirne Municipality was flooded. The employees picked all tables and chairs from the balcony. The team of AFAD and DSI have been continuing to research near to the rivers and follow the level of water. The Rivers Project Team of Edirne'yi Tanıtma ve Turizm Derneği have done some researching about Meric and Tunca floodings, and they have kept some reports. Promo River Project Team has also done visited the area and started to write some reports about the floodings.

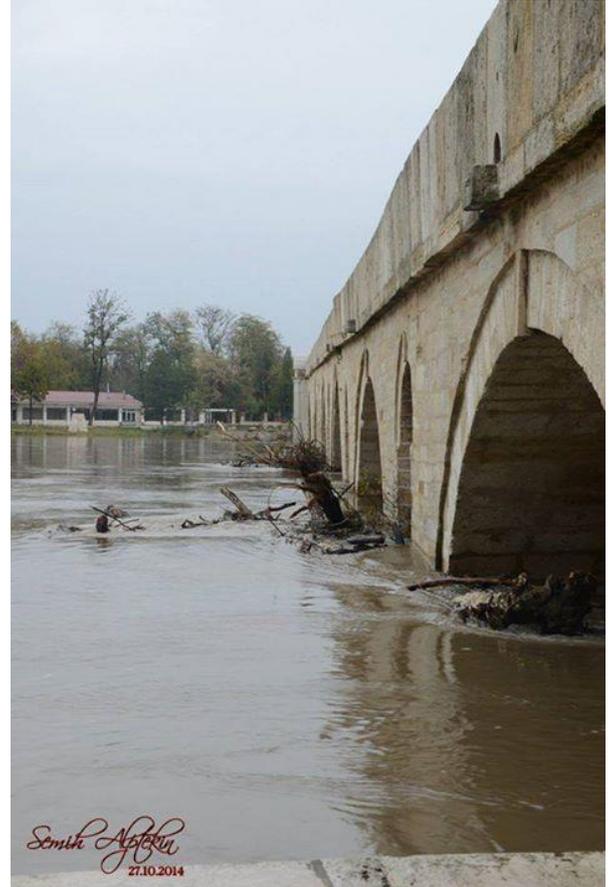
#### IN 72 HOURS, 78 KGS RAINS!

According to the informations of the Edirne Meteorology Management, the last 72 hours, it rained 78.7 kgs for every square meters. It it announced that rain will continue in Edirne where the weather temperature has decreased about 4 Centigrade Degrees, periodically.

Edirneyi Tanıtma ve Turizm Derneği Proje Ekibi



Flood caused slight damage



Water are raising in Edirne



The flow rate is about 961 cubic meters in river Meric

What's next?

Next partners' meeting -  
**PORTOGRUARO, ITALY**

**15-17 MARCH 2015**

**Sustainable Local  
Development**

